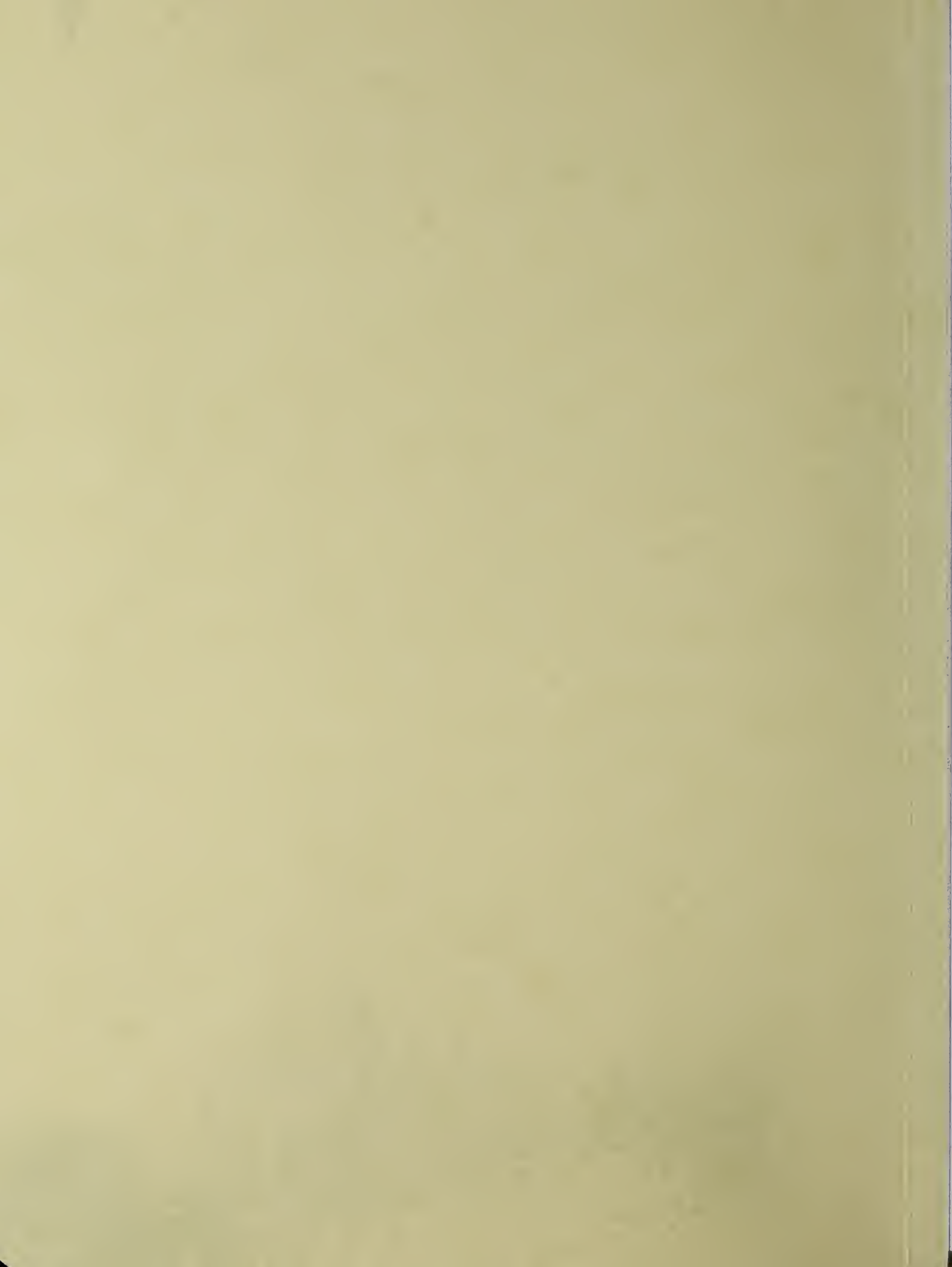


STATE HOUSE

DRAWER 12

SPRINGFIELD

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Illinois Springfield

State House (1)

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

SIXTY-TWO YEARS AGO.

The Court House Corner Stone Was Placed In Position.

Story of the Ceremony Which Attended The Work of Placing the Cube In Position.

The work of raising the Sangamon county court house will begin within a few days. Already the interior of the structure has been torn away and little remains to be done before the work of raising the building is commenced. The pile will be raised from the water table and the foundation will be raised several feet. The immense fluted columns supporting the north and south porticos will be raised to correspond with the remainder of the building, and large square pillars will be placed under them, reaching to the first floor.

Since the board of supervisors decided, by a majority vote, to raise the building, considerable interest in the work has been felt by the older residents of the city who were present at the dedication. It is anticipated by some that the corner stone will be laid bare when the pile is raised. However, a diversity of opinion has developed on this point, several who were present at the exercises claiming that the corner stone lies near the base of the foundation and not against the water table, as others claim. Unfortunately, there is no inscription or other identification mark on the corner stone to designate it.

It would be interesting to many to know the state of preservation of several of the articles which were placed in the corner stone sixty-two years ago. The stone was laid with appropriate exercises July 4, 1837, in the presence of a large concourse of the citizens of Illinois. Several coins and documents were placed in the receptacle in the stone. An account of the ceremony attending the laying will be of interest to many of the younger generation of Springfieldans, as well as to those who were here at that time. The following account of the exercises appeared in the Sangamo Journal of July 6, 1837, under the caption, "Independence:"

"This day was celebrated in Springfield with unusual eclat. The military companies of the town, and Captain Neale's newly organized company of horse, under command of Major Barker were early on parade. A feu de joie was fired at sunrise. After various evolutions of the military in the forenoon, they partook of a dinner in the grove, furnished by Mr. W. W. Watson. In the afternoon, a procession was formed at the First Presbyterian church, of members of the Mechanics' institute, with banner dis-

played, and citizens, who were escorted to the Methodist church by the military, where Mr. Willey delivered a very appropriate address, after which the procession was again formed and moved to the public square.

"The imposing proceeding of laying the corner stone of the new state house was then performed. The committee for that purpose were A. G. Henry, acting commissioner; J. F. Rague, president of the Mechanics' institute; B. Ferguson, vice-president; Abner Bennett, secretary; Capt. G. Elkin of the sharpshooters; E. S. Phillips of artillery; Lieut. William M. Cowgill, S. C. Thornton, J. S. Roberts of sharpshooters and J. N. Francis.

"There was deposited in the stone—A list of the general officers of the state government; a copy of the law locating the seat of government at Springfield; a copy of the journals of the last session of the general assembly; several species of the American coin, comprising some of the late issues from the mint as also some of the year 1795; the name of the architect of the building, with the names of the commissioners under whose superintendence the building is to be erected. The corner stone having been deposited on the designated place, Major Barker ascended it, and gave a short but pertinent and animated address to the concourse of people who were present. He alluded to the occasion and the place on which they met; glanced at the history of our state and nation; anticipated the brilliant destiny of Illinois under the controlling influence of virtue and intelligence; and sought to impress upon the people that under this influence, they might expect all they could desire for our country in the years yet to come.

" 'If with the firm resolve to wear no chain,

They dare all peril and endure all pain;

If their free spirits spurn a chain of gold,

By wealth unfettered and to ease unsold;

If with eternal vigilance they tread
In the true path of their time-honored dead—

Long as the stars shall deck the brow
of night;

Long as the smile of woman shall be
bright;

Long as the foam shall gather where
the roar

Or ocean sounds upon the wave-worn
shore;

So long, my country, shall thy banner
fly.

Till years shall cease and time itself
shall die."

"At the close of the address the welkin rang with huzzas—a salute was fired—and the people and the military retired, highly gratified with the proceedings of the day."

cent copper, in 1857; one cent, nickel, 1864; half dime and three cents, silver, and two cents bronze, 1873; twenty cents silver, 1878; trade dollar, 1883; one dollar and three dollars gold, and three cents nickel, 1889. The Columbian half dollar was coined in 1892 and 1893 and the Isabella quarter in 1893. The Lafayette dollar was struck in 1899, the date of the coin (1900) being that of the unveiling of the memorial.

Mint Marks—Coins struck at the Philadelphia Mint have no mint mark, those struck at all other mints of the United States are distinguished by a small letter on the reverse near the bottom; these letters are: "C" for Charlotte, N. C. discontinued in 1831; "CC" for Carson City, Nev., discontinued in 1803; "D" for Dahlonega, Ga., discontinued in 1861; "O" for New Orleans, La., and "S" for San Francisco, Cal.

The coin dealers are the proper persons to apply to for the value of old coins. It is very unsatisfactory and usually impossible to give the value of an old coin without seeing it, as so much depends upon the variety and condition of preservation of the coin.

The Mint does not publish and can not supply any book or list giving the prices of old coins.

The coins of the United States, now authorized by law, are:

Gold—Double Eagle, Eagle, Half Eagle, Quarter Eagle.

Silver—Half Dollar, Quarter Dollar, Dime.

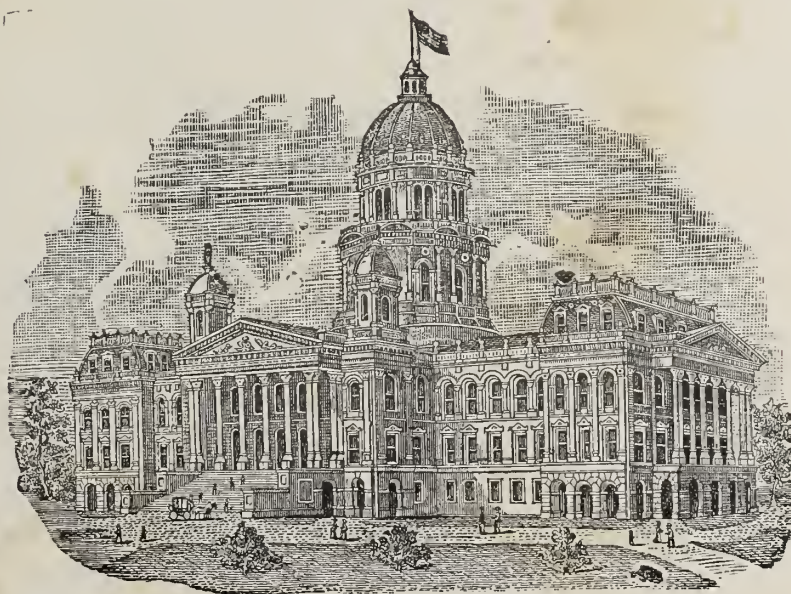
Minor—Five cents, nickel; One cent, bronze.

The five-cent and one-cent pieces are known as "minor" coins.

A "proof coin" is one struck by hand on a hydraulic press from a specially polished die, using a polished blank. They are made at the Philadelphia Mint only.

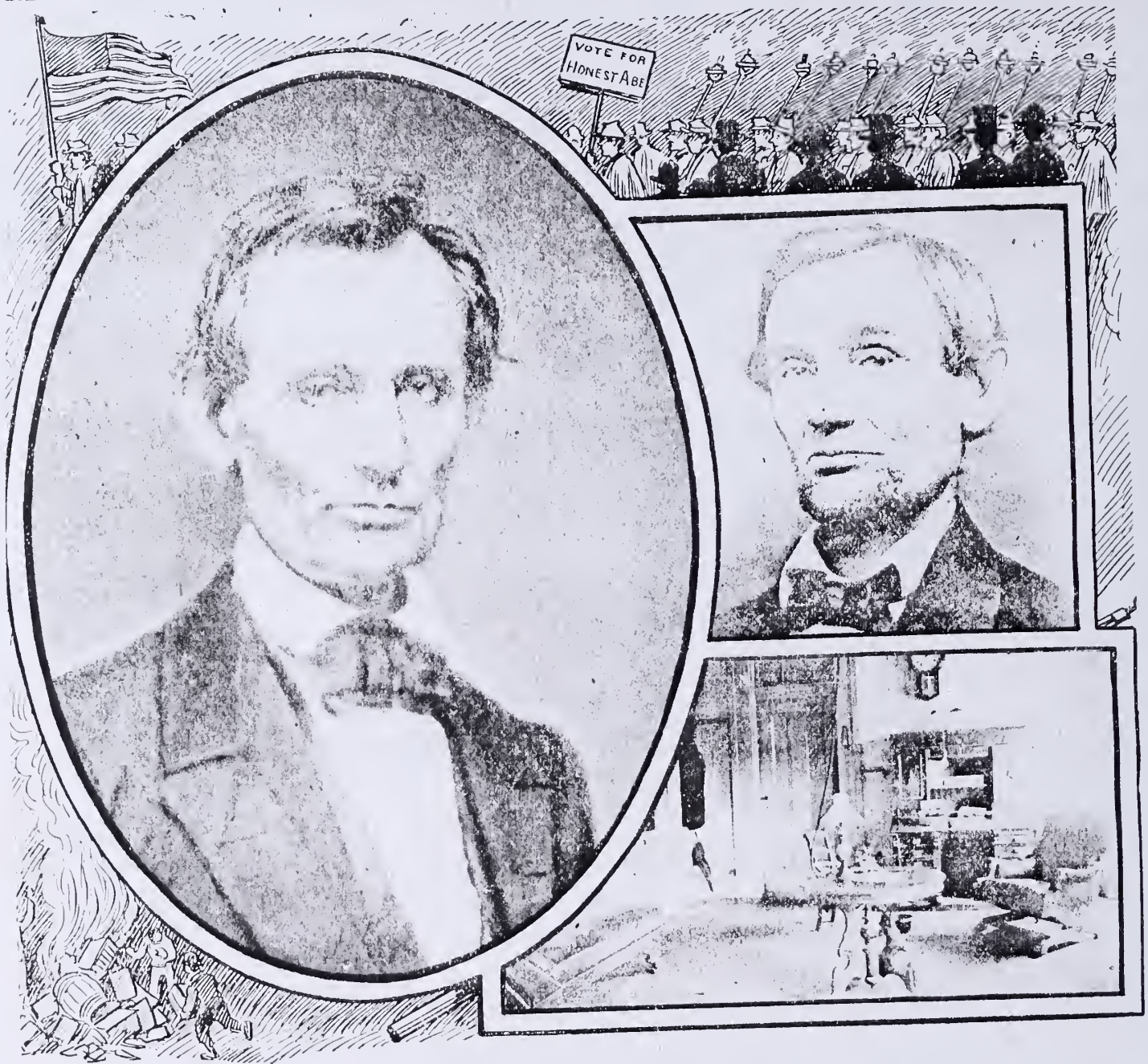
The price of the set of gold proof coins is \$38.50; the proof set of silver and minor coins, \$1.50; the proof set of minor coins, 8 cents. Single gold pieces, in proof, may be had for 25 cents each above their face value, but the other sets will not be separated.

Proof coins of the present year can be had from about January 15 to 31, unless, as is sometimes the case, the stock is exhausted a day or so before December 31. Dies wear with use, therefore coins struck late in the year may not be as perfect as those struck earlier. The Mint has no coins or sets of coins of other than the present date for sale.



THE CAPITOL OF ILLINOIS. COST \$1,000,000.

May 1906



WHEN LINCOLN RAN FOR PRESIDENT.

[The large picture of Lincoln herewith presented is known as the Cooper Union photograph. It was taken in 1860 and Mr. Lincoln often declared it helped him win the Presidency. The smaller likeness is from the first photograph ever made of him in 1851) after he began wearing a beard. The room shown is Lincoln's office in the old State House, Springfield, Ill., where he had his campaign headquarters.]

ILLINOIS

"THY WONDROUS STORY"

By JOHN HOWARD TODD, A. B. (Member Illinois State Historical Society)

[Copyright, 1914, by Henry Barrett Chamberlin.]

STORY OF THE CAPITOLS

ERECTION of the \$4,500,000 capitol which stands on a spacious plot of ground in Springfield was authorized by act of the general assembly approved Feb. 25, 1867. The structure was not completed until twenty-one years afterward. Partial use of the building was made for state purposes however, in 1876. The ground plans are in Latin cross form, the length north and south being 379 feet and east and west 268 feet. From the center rises a dome 361 feet high. Those who have the endurance and nerve to climb the circular stairway to its topmost platform are rewarded on clear days with a view of beautiful prairie country forty miles in diameter.

This is the fifth capitol of Illinois, the first three being at Vandalia and the other two in Springfield. The first, built in 1819, was a small two-story wooden structure. The first floor, a single room, was used by the house of representatives. There were two rooms on the second floor—one for the senate, the other for the council of revision, which was composed of the governor and the four justices of the Supreme Court and was empowered by the constitution of 1818 to revise all bills passed by the legislature before they should become laws.

The first capitol was burned Dec. 9, 1823. Of their own motion the citizens of Vandalia built a second capitol, and the legislature reimbursed them with \$12,164.71. The last legislative session held in this structure ended Jan. 13, 1836, and as Vandalia folk had reared it without asking the state's leave, they tore it down with just as little ceremony because it had become unfitted for use. A third capitol was erected on the same site. It cost \$16,000, of which the people of Vandalia provided \$10,000. The rest came out of the contingent fund. Again the people were reimbursed. In 1839, following the transfer of the seat of government to Springfield the state turned the building over to Fayette County and Vandalia, and it is now used as the courthouse.

The fourth state house, erected in Springfield, cost about \$260,000. For many years it was the marvel of the country folk. The corner stone was laid on July 4, 1837, and the structure was finished sixteen years later. It was thought that this capitol would be more than ample for state purposes for all time. How wide of the mark the prophets were is shown in the fact that Sangamon County raised the old capitol bodily and put a new story under it fifteen years ago that there might be room enough to accommodate the county offices.

When the fourth capitol was to be built Sangamon County gave its public square for a site. In 1866, preliminary to the building of the present statehouse, the county agreed to pay \$200,000 for the old building and site and to present a plot of eight acres for its more magnificent successor.

The three commissioners who supervised the building of the fourth capitol were paid \$3 a day for their services. When the legislature first met in Springfield on Dec. 9, 1839, the base of operations for the house of representatives was the Presbyterian church. The senate transacted its business in the First Methodist Church, an old frame building, and the Supreme Court found quarters in the Episcopal church. How Sangamon County and its famous "long nine" members of the legislature brought about the removal of the seat of government from Vandalia to Springfield will be related in a subsequent story.

Lincoln, Douglas and Grant Memorialized in Court Room Once Frequented by Them

Memories of Lincoln, the president; Douglas, the statesman, and Grant, the general, were recalled yesterday afternoon in a room in which all three of these great men were familiar figures years ago. The circuit court room in which Lincoln delivered many of his speeches before the war and before going to Washington as president and in which Douglas also delivered many great addresses, and in which Grant also appeared, before joining the union forces, was the scene of a meeting in honor of the centennial anniversary of the state of Illinois.

The circuit court room, first used as a circuit court room February 21, 1876, has recently been decorated in accordance with the ideas of the centennial committee. Portraits of Lincoln, Douglas and Grant adorn the west wall, just above the judges' bench, and these three great men, to whom Illinoisans owe so much, were the subjects of the addresses.

John W. Bunn of this city, who knew Lincoln, when he was a boy; Mrs. Jessie Palmer Weber, secretary of the Centennial commission; Hon. Clinton L. Conkling and Hon. James M. Graham were the speakers yesterday afternoon, with Hon. E. S. Smith, judge of the circuit court, presiding. And when the rooms were dedicated for the use of the circuit court back in 1876, Judge Charles S. Zane presided and the talks were given by General John A. McClelland, William H. Herndon and Judge Benjamin S. Edwards.

Lincoln Worked Cheaply.

Mr. Bunn told of one of the first big cases which Lincoln had. The Smith company of Chicago wrote Mr. Bunn and his brother, Jacob Bunn, to secure the services of the best lawyer in the county, as they had a case coming up for trial which involved several hundred thousand dollars. Mr. Bunn engaged Lincoln and after the case had been won he inquired as to what fee Lincoln would want. Lincoln was undecided but finally asked Mr. Bunn if he thought \$25 would be too much. After Mr. Bunn had made the settlement and wrote the Smith company of the final decision, he received a letter from Mr. Smith saying that he had not only hired the best lawyer in the county, but also the cheapest.

Mr. Bunn also related as to Grant taking command of the 21st Illinois regiment, which was stationed then west of the city. Mr. Bunn, Governor Yates and Major Loomis were walking in from the camp one day, and were discussing how hard it was to keep a man in command of this regiment, as they usually resigned. One suggested to Governor Yates that young Grant would be just the ideal man for the place, and Governor Yates asked where he could be located. At that time Grant was visiting in Kentucky and Major Loomis immediately wired him to come to Springfield and take command.

On arrival in Springfield Grant was asked after taking charge, how many railroad cars he would need to move the regiment to Quincy. Grant, who always decided things quickly, said he would rather march through a free state than through Missouri, a slave state, and started his regiment off for Quincy. The trip required less than ten days, and it was the only Illinois regiment to walk that distance, the others all using railroads.

Mr. Graham's Talk.

Mr. Graham said in part: I want to personally thank the board of supervisors for this splendid reminder of the past. No one who looks on this picture can fail to be impressed by the noble part Illinois has played in our country's history, and the fact that Springfield and Sangamon county are inseparably connected with the making of that history.

This painting on the wall is a forcible reminder of the past and of the part Springfield played in it.

It is indeed a distinguished group—Lincoln, Douglas, Grant.

To these three men more than to any others we owe it that we have today an undivided country.

There is a strongly dramatic touch in the strange relationships of the two former, Lincoln and Douglas—in the remarkable manner in which the lines of their lives touched and crossed at so many points and in so many ways.

Both were reared in poverty, both came to Illinois at the age of 20. Douglas came at least a part of the way on foot, and Lincoln all the way. Each took to the law and to politics, often meeting on opposite sides of a law suit, and also on opposite sides in the political campaigns. Both served in the state legislature, both aspired to the same seat in the United States senate, and both were candidates for the Presidency in 1860. They were even competitors for the hand of the same girl.

Sometimes one was victor, sometimes the other, but whatever the outcome of their contests and their rivalries neither ever ceased to be both a gentleman and a patriot, and towards the end, which was premature for both, when the life of the Republic was threatened, they stood shoulder to shoulder for the preservation of the union they both loved so well.

Douglas Born Leader.

Stephen A. Douglas was a remarkable man. He would have achieved place and fame in any country where ability was accorded opportunity. He was a born leader, and had all the qualities for leadership. He had confidence, courage, aggressiveness and decision; he was bold in attack and skillful in defence, and he was not without ambition.

His rise in Illinois was rapid. At 21 he was admitted to the bar, at 22 he was prosecuting attorney in one of the most important judicial districts in the state. In quick succession he became member of the legislature; register of the land office; secretary of state and member of the state supreme court. This latter office he resigned at the age of 30 to take a seat in the house of representatives at Washington. After a distinguished service of four years in the house he passed to the senate where he retained a seat till his untimely death on June 3, 1861, at the age of 48.

Part of his sensational service was during the days of Webster, Clay and Calhoun, and he soon proved himself worthy of such illustrious associates.

Lewis Cass, the democratic leader in the senate became secretary of state in 1857, and almost by general consent Douglas took his place as the leader of his party in that great assembly.

History as it has been written, up to this time, has not been quite fair to Stephen A. Douglas. It is true that as a leader of the party which was identified with slavery he was frequently compelled to compromise with his better judgment. But it was an age of compromise. The alternative appeared so dreadful that the bravest hesitated before taking that step. Webster was for compromise, and Clay is still known as the Great Compromiser.

But it was not a case for palliatives. There could be no lasting compromise with anything so inherently and essentially wrong and immoral as human slavery. As Lincoln so bravely and so wisely said: A house divided against itself could not stand. There were no alternative, it must be all one thing or all the other, and in the general progress toward higher and better

things there could be little question as to which it would be.

Tried for Harmony.

But Douglas, hampered by his political ambitions, tried to harmonize things which were permanently discordant, to reconcile the irreconcilable. He failed. He lost the object of his dearest ambition to his old rival, to a man whose worship of the Goddess of Liberty never waned even for a moment, that Goddess to whose service, come weal come woe, he had devoted his energies and his life.

It was in defeat that Douglas really discovered himself. After he had broken with the slaveholding autocracy, and realized the extent to which they were prepared to go the politician was lost in the patriot. He stood as a buttress behind the President. He ostentatiously held Mr. Lincoln's hat while he was taking the oath of office. He defended him ably and vigorously on the floor of the senate during the days of the short session and when after the surrender of Fort Sumter, the President called for 75,000 volunteers, Douglas at once proceeded to the white house and offered his services in the most whole-hearted and unreserved way. The President accepted them in the same spirit and directed him to proceed to Illinois to stir the people with his eloquence and bring home to them a realization of their duty and of the seriousness of the situation.

To realize the true value of the work done by Douglas at this trying time, we must remember that no man in public life in America ever had a more devoted personal following than the Little Giant. His followers believed in him absolutely. As he went so they went. No one knew this better than Lincoln. And when we reflect that in the northern states Douglas polled 1,375,000 votes to Lincoln's 1,766,000 we will realize more fully how much depended on his attitude. It was of the most vital importance that he should unequivocally declare himself in favor of the Union cause just as he did do.

Rendered Great Service.

I would not detract one jot or tittle of the fame and credit due to General Grant, but I think it is fairly certain that if he had not led the Union armies to victory some other general—possibly Sherman—would have done so.

Nor would I diminish in the slightest degree the glory and credit due Lincoln for his amazing performance but it is quite conceivable that Seward might have succeeded in piloting the ship of state safely through the shoals and rocks of the Civil war; it is quite thinkable that others might have successfully taken the place of Grant and even of Lincoln, but no man then lived who could have taken the place of Stephen A. Douglas.

In obedience to the President's suggestion he came at once to Illinois. In this building, nay, in this very room, in words of surpassing force and eloquence, he appealed to his friends and to all the people to protect the government and the flag from every assailant whoever he may be.

The shortest way to peace he said, is through the most stupendous and unanimous preparations for war. There are only two sides to the question. Every man must be for the government or against it. There can be no neutrals—only patriots or traitors.

It is true the great service Douglas rendered his country had the recognition it deserves, and it gives me personal gratification to see this start made in the old state house where his voice was so often heard. Its presence here will stimulate a study of his life, and that will make the student a better American and better man.

Eulogizes Lincoln.

Mr. Conkling said:

"Mr. Lincoln, both as legislator, lawyer, politician, candidate for the United States senate, presidential nominee and president-elect, had much to do with this building. He was one of the nine members of the legislature of 1836-37 which met at Vandalia, then capital of the state, called the "Long Nine" on account of the fact that they averaged exactly six feet in height.

"This delegation from the county of Sangamon succeeded in having the capital removed from Vandalia to Springfield. Mr. Lincoln was not only a member of that legislature, but was also a member for several terms after the capitol was moved to Springfield.

"In the room where we are today, Mr. Lincoln sat as a member of the legislature. Here he delivered some of his earlier and the most interesting of his speeches and he here contended with politicians of the democratic party, being a whig, in the contest over the slavery question, which was one of the burning questions of the day.

"After he was admitted to practice at the bar as a lawyer in 1839, he availed himself of the books loaned to him by a fellow, but when the capitol was occupied, as it was in a few years, the state law library, which was situated in the northeast corner of the building, where the present court room is, afforded him much assistance by reason of the number of text books of that day which were to be found therein. This library belonged to the state and was for the use of the supreme court and the lawyers.

"In the center and on the east side of that same floor was the supreme court room, and there at the clerk's desk he was on March 1, 1839, finally admitted to the practice of the law in the state of Illinois. Before this court and in that room he often argued cases taken on appeal from various courts in the Eighth judicial district, over which he traveled with other lawyers in going from county to county to attend the sessions of the circuit court.

As Legislator.

"As a legislator his work was quite notable in the early days and he took a very prominent part in all of the conventions and in the various transactions in the state during the time that he was in the legislature.

"The house of representatives, when he was a member, occupied the room on the west side of the capitol which is now occupied by the circuit court of Sangamon county. At that time the room extended from the extreme south to the extreme north of the building, and had upon its eastern side in a curve a row of beautiful Corinthian columns.

"It was a very dignified and excellent room. In this room Mr. Lincoln delivered some of his stirring anti-slavery speeches in the early days. Here also in June, 1858, he delivered the celebrated speech wherein he said: 'A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free.'

"This speech he had carefully prepared and submitted to a number of his republican friends, who unanimously advised him not to deliver it. He did not argue the matter with them but quietly said that he believed that he was right and if right he was going to deliver it whatever the consequences might be.

"They thought that he would destroy his chance of being chosen United States senator and the sequel proved that they were right, but this speech which lost for him the senatorship gained for him the presidency. This speech was delivered in

the present circuit court room at an adjourned session of the republican convention held in the evening.

"In the southeast corner of the building, where now is the room of the master in chancery, Mr. Lincoln spent the interval from his nomination until late in the year 1860 receiving delegations, conferring with friends and political adherents.

"A short time before leaving for Washington, in February, 1861, he left these rooms and occupied for the time being, for a few weeks only, some rooms in what was then known as the Revere House, on the northeast corner of Washington and Fourth street, from whence he left in February, as I have said, for Washington.

Lincoln Burial.

"He never again was received by his friends and neighbors in Springfield as a man, but afterwards, in 1865, in April, all that was mortal of the Great Emancipator was brought back and placed in this room, where we are now today, and on a bier draped in black rested his remains while his friends and neighbors came quietly and solemnly and many in tears, looking for the last time upon the face of the one whom they had loved so much.

"They came all through the long day and steadily all the long night, through yonder door, and passing by the head of his coffin as he lay just below me here in this room they passed out the other door quietly and into the street.

"These walls, these corridors, these rooms have many an incident and many reminiscences of the great martyred president and it becomes us to recall the various facts by which he was associated with these material things, and we should hand down from generation to generation the memory of these associations so that the places which are so sacred by reason of his having been here so much should always be kept in the minds of generation after generation of the great president, Abraham Lincoln."

Mrs. Weber in her address on the Centennial had the following to say:

If the walls of this venerable building could speak they would have a glorious story to relate. Illinois has reached the age of one hundred years. For a century she has been making long strides in progress and in resources. Today we are actually celebrating the first of the Centennial observances, and nothing could be more appropriate than for this county, and this city, the capital county and the capital city, which are located almost in a geographical center of the state and where the state's business centers. Therefore, it is most appropriate that the officers of and officials of Sangamon county take the first official action in celebrating the state's Centennial. Individuals have birthdays, states have birth years.

Illinois was not twenty years old when the little village of Springfield was selected as its capital. The act choosing Springfield was passed by the Legislature at Vandalia on February, 28, 1837. During eighty years of Illinois' century of Statehood, Springfield has been the Capital. For nearly thirty years this building was the State Capitol. The corner stone of this house was laid on July 4, 1837, and the dedicatory address was delivered by Col. E. D. Baker, "Silver Tongued Ned Baker," who Dr. William Jayne, whom you all knew, declared was the most eloquent man of them all. Baker, who served in the Mexican War, in Congress, and with the tide of emigration of the day sought a new home in the golden west. He returned in triumph to represent the state of Oregon in the United States Senate, and when the Civil War broke out, Mr. Lincoln, his old friend, appointed him a brigadier general, but in the first year of the war, August, 1861, he laid down his life in the service of his country at Ball's Bluff. My time is so brief that I can not more than briefly touch upon the events which have occurred in this historic building. The first general assembly held in this building convened Nov. 23, 1840.

Thomas Carlin was governor and William L. D. Ewing was Speaker of the House. He defeated Abraham Lincoln, his Whig opponent. Mr. Lincoln was of course a member of the House. In this room eleven United States Senators were elected to represent Illinois in the highest law making body in the land. The first was Samuel McRoberts, elected in 1841, the last, Richard J. Oglesby, elected in 1873. Stephen A. Douglas and Lyman Trumbull were each elected three times, but Senator Douglas did not live to complete his third term. Ten governors have presided in this house, the first, Thomas Carlin, and the last, John L. Beveridge. Schuyler M. Cullom presided in this room as Speaker of the House of Representatives. In this room, Mr. Lincoln delivered his great speech of June 16, 1858, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Here the great Douglas came to this room to plead with his friends to remain loyal, to support the government. In his eloquent, pathetic speech of April 25, 1861, the malady which was so soon to cause his death had already laid its heavy hand upon him and added to the pathos and power of the speech. He died in Chicago June 3, of that year. To this house they brought Lincoln's martyred form, that he might for twenty-four hours lie in august majesty, that his old friends and neighbors should pay their last sad tribute of love and reversion, ere they bore him to his final resting place. Here it was in this house, that the brave men of 1861 came to offer their services to our great war governor Yates, for the defense of our country, and among them came a quiet and retiring man who on the recommendation of E. B. Washburne was given employment in the office of the Adjutant General. This was, Captain Ulysses E. Grant.

C, D + G Memorialized 3

When he left Galena in 1861 he was just thirty-nine years of age. He had been educated at West Point and had served in the regular army. Leaving the army he had tried farming near St. Louis without meeting success, and went finally to Galena to assist in the tannery in which his father was interested. On the breaking out of the war he came to Springfield to see if he could be of service. He felt that his West Point training and military service ought to be put to practical use. Many stories are told of how Governor Yates happened to appoint him Colonel of the Twenty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry regiment, but the important thing is that he received this appointment.

The story of his wonderful rise, his great military genius and the fact that in four years time he was at the head of the armies of the United States is more than wonderful and thrilling than a tale of a hero of romance in the realm of fiction. It is idle to conjecture what the life of General Grant would have been if the opportunity which the Civil War gave him had not arisen. That is was one of the Great Captains of the world is conceded. Illinois in writing her history has not paid enough attention to the fact that Ulysses S. Grant is one of her sons, has not loudly enough proclaimed him as one of the most illustrious soldiers of the world, and called attention to the fact that he hailed from Illinois. At thirty-nine years of age, he had met with little but discouragement. At forty-three years of age, he received the sword of Lee in surrender at Appomattox and was general of all of the armies of the United States. At forty-six he was elected president of the United States. All these things occurred in seven years time and he began his career in the Civil War here in this building.

The judges of this circuit have always been men of learning and reputation. Before this room was the court room, the Sangamon Circuit, since the apportionment of 1839 had been presided over by such noted men and able judges as S. H. Treat, Nathaniel Pope, Stephen T. Logan, David Davis,

An event of national importance will take place at Oak Ridge cemetery on Decoration day, when a monument will be dedicated to the memory of William H. Herndon, who for many years was the law partner of Abraham Lincoln, and who also was the author of a "Life of Lincoln." The hour set for the ceremonies is 3 o'clock Thursday afternoon and the Sangamon County Bar association will attend in a body. It is expected also that the Illinois State Historical society will be represented by several of its members, including some who live in other cities of the state.

The program will be in charge of the president of the bar association, Adolph Bernard, who will preside during the exercises. The chief address of the day will be delivered by H. W. Masters. Vachel Lindsay will read his poem, "When Lincoln Walks at Midnight."

The monument is of gray-green granite, a plain, massive pillar with its upper surface rounded in a graceful arch. On the front of the stone is the inscription, "William H. Herndon, Abraham Lincoln's law partner seventeen years, born Dec. 25, 1818; died March 14, 1891," and the quotation from Herndon's book on the life of Lincoln, "The struggles of this age and succeeding ages, for God and man—religion—humanity and liberty, with all their complex and grand relations—may they triumph and conquer forever, is my ardent wish and most fervent soul-prayer."

The north side of the stone bears the inscription, "Mary J. Herndon, wife of William H. Herndon, born July 27, 1822; died August 18, 1861," and the south side, "Anna M. Herndon, wife of William H. Herndon, born March 1, 1836; died January 8, 1893."

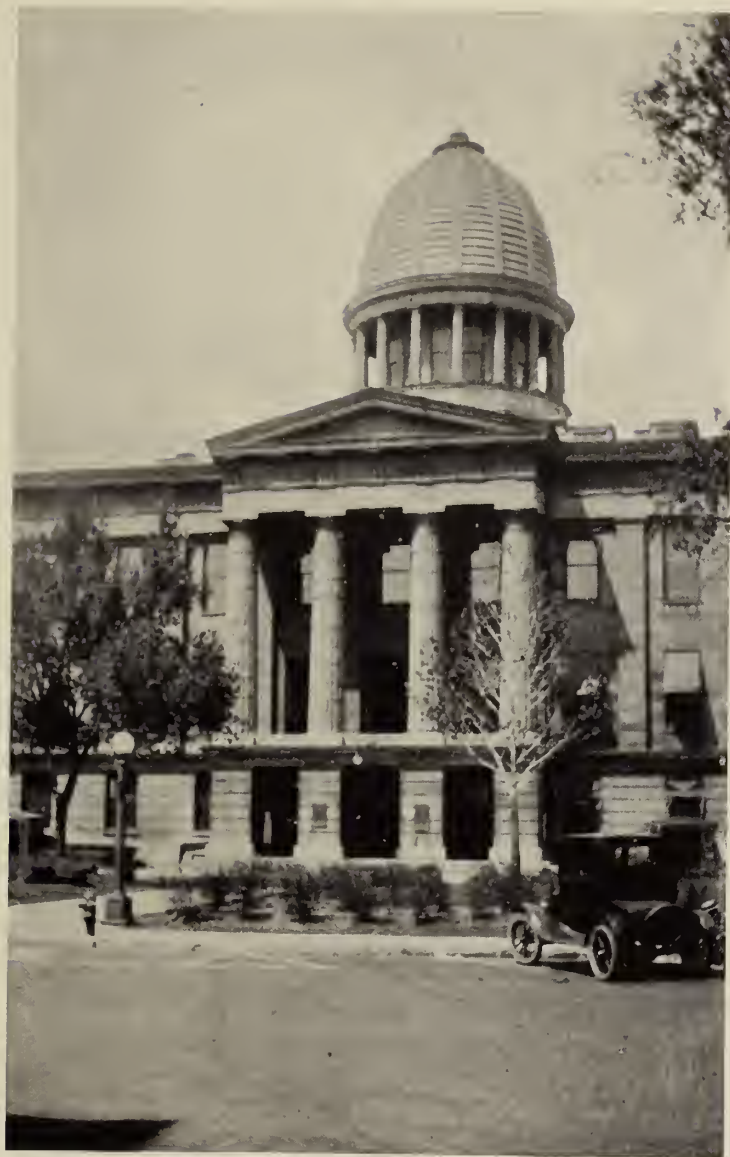
The inscriptions were subjected to the approval of the three daughters of Mr. Herndon, Mrs. Annie M. Fleury, Mrs. Mary F. Ralston and Mrs. Minnie H. Ballard, all of whom reside in Springfield.

Jesse H. Welk of Greencastle, Ind., is said to have started the plan to build a monument to William H. Herndon. Mr. Welk several years ago went to Oak Ridge cemetery while on a visit to this city and on inquiring for and finding the grave of Lincoln's law partner was distressed to see that it was not properly marked. Mr. Welk had assisted Mr. Herndon in compiling data for the life of Lincoln and had learned to admire and respect the man who had been so intimately associated with the great emancipator.

Some time afterwards, through the efforts of Mr. Welk, a suitable fund was raised and the monument now to be dedicated was erected. Among the contributors were many members of the Sangamon County bar and men and women residing throughout the nation who were admirers of Lincoln and Herndon.

Among the Sangamon county contributors to the Monument fund are: Gray Herndon, nephew of William H. Herndon; H. B. Rankin, B. F. Caldwell, J. W. Patton, Edward C. Knotts, Judge G. W. Murray, Judge J. Otis Humphrey, Bluford Wilson, Clinton L. Conkling, Logan Hay, H. E. Barber, W. M. Ballard, C. S. Andrews, Mrs. J. D. Brown.

Contributors living in distant parts of the country include W. F. Herndon, of Los Angeles, Cal.; W. K. Bixby, of St. Louis; John Campbell, Balboa, Panama; George U. Crocker, Boston, Mass.; David Jameson, Newcastle, Pa.; W. O. Johnson, Chicago; S. W. Jackson, New York City; Rev. Jenkin Lloyd Jones, Chicago; Governor Lowden; F. W. Lehman, St. Louis; Gardner Lathrop, Chicago; H. W. Meltzer, Chicago; C. W. McLellan, Champlain, N. Y.; William Narin, Nowata, Okla.; Leon Whitford, Nowata, Okla.; Arch Ringe, Nowata, Okla.; F. A. Patrick, Palestine, Texas; A. E. Pillsbury, Boston, Mass.; E. C. Reichwald, Chicago; J. E. Rensburg, Potter, Kan.; Judd Steward, New York City; Silas H. Strawn, Chicago; Charles W. Wendte, Newton, Mass.; Theodore N. Vail, Boston, Mass.; U. N. Bethel, New York City; J. D. Loveless, Speegleville, Texas; G. A. Tracy, Putnam, Conn.; The Truth Seeker, New York City.



THE OLD STATE-HOUSE
Now Sangamon County Court-House
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Photograph by the Author

LOWDEN'S DRAMATIC STORY SHOWS SPRINGFIELD GREAT IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING OLD COURT HOUSE

With fine dramatic effect, speaking before the Lincoln Centennial association at the Sangamo club banquet Monday night, former Governor Frank O. Lowden recalled history which makes sacred the old circuit court room of the Sangamon county court house. The meeting closed the celebration of the 114th birth anniversary of the Great Emancipator.

Though he did not make any recommendation relative to the court house, it was obvious to all who heard him that Springfield and Sangamon county should unite in energetic activity for the preservation of that old building in its entirety, and the circuit court room in particular.

Governor Lowden said that during his residence in Springfield he attended merely as a listener a meeting of the Historical society held in that court room and heard brief addresses by Lincoln's former associates—George Pashfield, John W. Bunn and Clinton L. Conkling. They told of Lincoln's practice of law in that court house, of the old house of representatives occupying that chamber; of the address of Douglas who had suffered defeat, but returned saying: "There are now only two parties—patriots and traitors"; of the presence there of General Grant shortly before taking command of the Twenty-first Illinois, and other events which hallow that spot.

As the governor spoke there was a hush through the audience that evidenced its inspiration. From that address is expected to spring an activity relative to Lincoln's memory that will focus upon the court house.

The entire program was characterized by a multitude of suggestions that may help to perpetuate the memory of Lincoln more fittingly in Springfield. "Keep Green the Memory of Lincoln in Springfield," as expressed by Logan Hay, the presiding officer, was the plea of the several speakers heard at the gathering.

Converse Makes Suggestions.

Suggestions concerning what might be done to make Springfield a more

worthy place as the former home and final resting place of Lincoln were given in large numbers by Harry Converse.

"As an Englishman walks through Westminster Abbey and a Frenchman visits the tomb of Napoleon for inspiration we should turn more and more to Lincoln for our inspiration, but men of all nations turn to Lincoln here for their inspiration. There is nothing here that is exclusively Springfield's but every community in Illinois should know that they have a part to play in retaining the familiar places known to Lincoln."

John Walker spoke on the financial needs of the association if it undertook any great work. He mentioned very optimistically that if the right appeal is made, the organization will have no trouble to carry on whatever work or activity it desires.

"Big men in labor organizations would back any movement if properly made," said Mr. Walker. "We would be glad to contribute money for any worthy purpose and I believe that money could be raised in Illinois for a magnificent building in memory of Lincoln."

Short talks were made at the close of the program by Mrs. Burton Reed, Mrs. Jessie Palmer Weber, Col. J. W. Jefferson, Dr. E. E. Hagler and Judge E. S. Smith.

P. Barton Warren, secretary of the association, told of the necessity of having enthusiasm for Lincoln movements in Springfield.

Following are some of the suggestions made at the meeting concerning activities and movements that the association might undertake:

Suggestions.

Yearly observance of February 12 and an exhibition of Lincoln literature and other material to be part of the birthday celebration; invitation to the president of the United States to be the chief speaker once in four years at birthday celebrations; prizes to be offered for the best monograph on Abraham Lincoln; scholarships in Illinois colleges or universities for best work in

original research; cooperation and aid in the collection by the state of Illinois of a great number of Lincoln relics to include manuscripts, letters, books, pictures and relics of various kinds; collection of all possible information in Springfield regarding Lincoln's life, collected and placed in book form and published for distribution to tourists or other interested persons; marking sites in Springfield and Sangamon county connected with the life of Lincoln, encouraging and aiding in a Lincoln pageant to be given at New Salem; collection of the reminiscences of all individuals who have known Lincoln; construction of a paved road between Springfield and New Salem, this road to be planted on both sides by trees named in honor of Lincoln; preservation of Lincoln's home in Springfield.

Lincoln Tomb News

There were less than twenty-five callers yesterday at Lincoln tomb.

Will the agitation result in giving Illinois a Lincoln memorial that will satisfy the people for all time to come? When a person talks with less than a thousand people he may have very decided views on such matters, but if he talks to a million he may have his doubts. Lincoln lovers are generally agreed that he deserves a memorial second to nothing on earth. The one at Washington is awe inspiring, but a few minutes or a few hours generally satisfies one. It has but one idea, the spectacular.

At Lincoln tomb is probably the first place to get suggestions. The views of a million or two of people are worth considering. The underlying thought of the guests is that nothing is too good. The ordinary, or one idea will not satisfy the people. It must appeal to and satisfy the intellect as well as the spectacular fancy.

The question at the tomb asked by hundreds of thousands is: "Why doesn't the state furnish a place for the proper display of the historic treasures?"

Four plans have been suggested, each one favored by hundreds of thousand guests:

1. The erection of a building on the nine acres at the tomb.
2. A large building on First street.
3. Making the court house into a Lincoln memorial.
4. Secure the four blocks adjacent to Lincoln homestead, build a building thereon large enough to house all the Lincoln collections obtainable, as well make space for all the architectural, geological, educational, and art treasures under one roof.

To satisfy the spectacular, vacate the streets and build an approach facing town that will be the last word in architectural grandure. Just as a suggestion, solicit every banker of the county and ask him to send a \$5 gold piece and with the money thus collected make a gold statue of Lincoln to face the entrance.

Solicit bits of jewel, wood, stone or

metal from the famed historic buildings of every country of the world to be used in the construction of the facade.

We mistrust that the reader will unite with hundreds of thousands of the tomb guests and say:

"If you can get the money give us plan number four."

It is suggested that certain Lincoln enthusiasts of unlimited means would give millions for the aid of number four who would not give a cent to aid any of the other propositions.

Will the funds necessary be available at this time? The way to find out is for the commission to send a delegation to see at least half a dozen of men, each of which could say yes and that would be all that was necessary. The committee who approach the men in question should be selected with great care, they even should take with them a few persons standing nearest the one solicited. They might suggest that a delay of a few months or a year be made for financial or other reasons.

Of course no one would want any one man or a few men to do it all, but if they said that the time was right then put on a campaign and cover every school district in the field.

Outside of the birthplace itself and its surroundings, the tourists say that one of the greatest thrills they get out of the Kentucky visit is to call for and get to see the card giving a record that they or their father, or grandfather contributed to the fund that made the present memorial possible. The idea even in greater scope could be carried out here. The contributors could be solicited to send their picture and personal sketch, which without cost would be invaluable for genealogical research.

If the people would cease to visit the place or roar as a unit, memorial hall would not be reestablished at Lincoln's tomb. It has outgrown the place, and the things that the people want to see will be shown elsewhere, in Illinois or in some other state. It is up to the committee to recommend a proper place and that will be their life monument.

SOCIETY ASKS COURT HOUSE AS MEMORIAL

**Paul M. Angle Re-elected
Historical Society Secre-
tary-Treasurer**

The Illinois State Historical society, in closing its annual convention Saturday in Bloomington endorsed the proposal to convert the Sangamon county court house into a Lincoln memorial to be maintained by the state.

The project hinges on the state's purchase of the court house and the providing of funds by the government to finance most of the construction of a joint city-county building.

James A. James of Evanston was re-elected president of the society, and Paul M. Angle, Springfield, head of the state historical library, was re-elected secretary-treasurer. Logan Hay of Springfield was re-elected to the board of directors.

Springfield Chosen As Capital In 1837

Action Taken By Illinois General Assembly During Session At Vandalia Was Tremendous Boost
This Small Village Of Century Ago.

Springfield was selected as the permanent capital of the state of Illinois on Feb. 28, 1837. The two houses of the tenth general assembly at Vandalia were in joint session that day in pursuance to an act passed three days previously, to ballot on the capital. Springfield won on the fourth ballot, when this city received seventy-three votes, a majority of all.

In so doing, the legislature overrode a referendum vote of the people in 1834. This vote was taken at the general election that year, in accordance with an act passed in 1833. No place received a majority, but Alton led with 7,511, followed by Vandalia, 7,148, Springfield, 7,044, Jacksonville, Peoria and "the geographical center."

This voting was repealed by the act passed Feb. 25, 1837, under which Springfield was chosen on Feb. 28. The action on these two days climaxed a long strategic campaign by "the Long Nine" delegation from Sangamon county—Archer G. Hernon and Job Fletcher in the senate, Abraham Lincoln, Ninian W. Edwards, John Dawson, Andrew McCormick, Dan Stone, William F. Elkin and Robert L. Wilson in the house.

The 'thirties were an era of internal improvements. The people, Governor John Reynolds, said, were "perfectly insane on the subject." The wildest schemes were in the air—for a gridiron of canals, railroads and pikes criss-crossing the state; for deepening rivers for navigation which, like the Kaskaskia, "wouldn't float a turtle;" and other public works.

The plan was for the state to sell bonds abroad and in the east to finance the improvements. The frenzy found crystallization in a bill to establish and maintain a general system of internal improvements. Every town wanted some improvements, and consequently there was plenty of log-rolling. The Long Nine, however, weren't out after improvements; they were glad to vote for improvements elsewhere if they could trade their votes for votes to make Springfield the capital. And they had nine votes—a big block those days.

Led by Lincoln, the Sangamon delegation kept postponing decision on locating the capital until the internal improvement act neared

the passage stage. It was passed supplementary improvement acts Feb. 27, 1837, vetoed by Governor Duncan and the council of revision were passed to benefit those omitted from the main measure. and passed over their veto. Next Springfield won the capital, but it had to fill the onerous provisions of the act which called for a sub-

scription of \$50,000 by the citizens of the town where the permanent seat of government located. As for the internal improvements, a depression made impossible the sale of bonds to finance them.

Sangamon Court House Before Remodeling



Sangamon court house before it was raised



Court house, then state house, decorated for Lincoln funeral

FIRST COURT HOUSE COST ONLY \$72.50

Present Court House Was
Formerly State House;
Built of Local Stone

"Logs twenty-five feet long, the house one story high, with plank floor, a good cabin roof, a door and window cut out—" is the description of Sangamon county's first court-house.

The entire structure—judges seat, bar and all—cost \$72.50. Built by John Kelley it was contracted to be finished not later than May 1, 1821. Mr. Kelley was paid \$42.50 with five dollars allowed for extras. The county jail was built in the same year for \$84.75.

John Kelley and his brother, Elisha, were hunters who had sought the wilds of Sangamon county in 1818 in order to "get away from people." Three years later, however, Rivers Cormack, Zachariah Peters and William Drennan, as county commissioners, came into their midst for the reason that it was the only place in the country where enough families could be found in the vicinity to take in the court members.

Thus it was that the first court was held in 1821 in the Kelley home. C. R. Matheny was appointed clerk and the commissioners presented their certificate for the location of a temporary county seat of justice with the suggestion that it be named Spring Field. The designated spot was marked with a stake "ZD" which is generally believed to have been set near the corner of Second and Jefferson streets.

Prior to June 5, 1821, the name of the county, according to the record, was Sangamo, but without any apparent reason an "n" was added on this day during court session and the county has been known ever since as Sangamon. It was divided into four districts with two overseers of the poor appointed for each, and three trustees appointed to look after the overseers.

Giger Gives History

H. Douglas Giger, in his "Story of the Sangamon County Court House" gives an interesting picture of the progress of that early 'seat of justice.' "And so the summer passed away in this little out-of-the-way village, and along about the time the frost began to gather on the pumpkins and the autumn wind to whistle through the cracks of this primitive temple of justice and incidentally through the whiskers of the county officers; they bethought themselves of winter cheer.

"So one Jesse Brevard contracted to patch up the court house for the winter. Nine years after this they had a snow five feet deep. He agreed to chink outside and daub inside. Boards sawed and nailed on the inside cracks, a good and sufficient door shutter, to be made with good

(C. M.)

hinges, with a latch. A window to be cut out, faced and cased, to contain nine lights, with a good sufficient shutter hung on the outside. A fire-place to be cut out seven feet wide, and a good sufficient wooden chimney, built with a good, sufficient back and hearth. Jesse did all this for \$20.50 ***

"At a court held March 1, 1822, the court began to put on a little style, so they ordered that 14 rods east and west, including the street, and 12 rods north and south, including the street, in the town of Springfield, on which the court house now stands be set apart for public purposes and the accommodation of the court house and other public buildings.

"Prior to 1823, the principal occupation of the frontiers man of the Kelley settlement consisted in hunting, trapping, fishing and bee-hunting; but the fame of the 'Sangamo country' spread through the land and the town began to fill up with progressive citizens accustomed to the more advanced ways of the larger cities of the East. ***

"By an act of the General Assembly of December 23, 1824, the boundaries of the county were re-established and James Mason, Rowland P. Allen, Charles Grear, John G. Lofton and John R. Sloo were appointed commissioners to locate the permanent seat of justice of the county. It was stipulated in this act that the parties on whose lands the county seat was located, should donate to the county 35 acres of land adjoining it.

"When the law was passed quite a struggle ensued between Springfield, Sangamo town and a 'Paper town' located on the river where the water works now stands. The historic town of Sangamo—where Lincoln built his flat boat—was located on the west bluff of the river in the northwest quarter of section two in Gardner township. It has long been extinct.

"Charles Broadwell was the proprietor, and at the time the question of locating the permanent county seat was agitated, the settlement had grown into quite a respectable town for those days, and was actually a better location than Springfield, as it was on the water, contained several stores, had a saw-mill and grist-mill and a carding machine.

"The other rival of Springfield was a town that existed on paper, and was principally owned by speculators from the east, of whom W. S. Hamilton, a young lawyer and son of Alexander Hamilton, was the prime mover. The commissioners, it seems, were required to view the various sites offered, much as parties seeking factory sites do nowadays, and after visiting Springfield, with which they were not very much impressed, inquired the nearest route to Sangamo and Hamilton's town.

"Major Iles and the other citizens would not hear of their leaving without a guide, so Andrew Elliott, the keeper of the 'Buck Tavern' and a noted woodsman, volunteered to show them the way. It is now about an hour's drive to old Sangamo town, but Elliott took the commissioners in a roundabout way through swamps and thickets, and back and forth across Spring creek and the river, and when the commissioners arrived at Sangamo they were so exhausted and disgusted with the supposed inaccessible region, that they would listen to no explanations and soon put back to Springfield, where, after

hanging fire like a legislative committee, they finally located the permanent county seat. It would be impossible to calculate of how much value this decision was for the struggling little town at that period."

Soon after, steps were taken for the erection of a new court house, the old log one having grown too small for convenience. The old one was sold to John Taylor for \$32 in 1825, and a contract let for a new one costing \$449 to Thomas M. Neale. This did not include the chimney, which was let to Joseph Thomas for \$70. The total cost of the building amounted to \$521.50. Erected on the northeast corner of Sixth and Adams streets, it was used for five years.

On the second of March, 1830 a still larger and more modern court house was contracted for at a cost of \$6,841. Built of brick and wood-work near the center of the public square, it was completed and occupied in 1831. A square, two-story building with a hip roof and cupola on the top, it was similar in style to the court houses generally built in the Mississippi valley at that period.

According to Wallaces "Past and Present of Sangamon County," from the time of its erection most of the business of the town collected around the public square, and the "old town" on Jefferson street was deserted. On the north side of Washington street, fronting the square, was what was called "Chicken row," where many a drunken brawl and rough and tumble fight took place. Near the northeast corner of the square, adjacent to the old jail, stood the whipping post, a terror to evil doers."

Like its predecessors, the new court house soon gave way to a more pretentious building. In the spring of 1837 it was demolished to make room for the state house (the present courthouse) unable at the time to erect another courthouse, the county authorities rented a former storehouse from Ninian Edwards and used it for almost eight years. A two-story building, later known as "Hoffman's Row." It stood on the west side of Fifth street, four or five doors north of Washington street.

Not until 1845 were any efforts made to move to more suitable quarters. In April of that year a large lot was bought at the southeast corner of Sixth and Washington streets and a contract entered into with Henry Dresser for the construction of a building not to exceed \$9,680.

Oblong in shape, the new courthouse was two stories in height with a basement and a lofty doric portico finished in imitation of stone. It stood a little to the north of the old state bank building and was used for approximately 30 years.

The present courthouse is the former statehouse. In January, 1876 when the state officers moved their quarters to the new Capitol building, the county officials moved into the vacated statehouse, transforming it into a court house. The former courthouse was torn down and the ground subdivided into business lots.

For a number of years it was amply sufficient for the county's requirements, but in 1897 it became apparent that more space was needed. Dr. A. L. Converse introduced a resolution setting forth the need of additional room, the danger to the county records from fire, etc. and asked for the appointment of a committee to investigate and report on the matter.

The committee, however, advised that "nothing should be done until

the finances of the county would justify giving the building a thorough overhauling. The need of changes was recognized but public sentiment was slow in determining just what was wanted.

As Wallace, in his "Past and Present of Sangamon County" said, "The old building had become historic and was haunted by the shadows of great names. Under its dome many stirring scenes had been enacted. Its halls had resounded with the eloquence of Lincoln, Douglas, Baker, Logan, Stuart, Edwards, McClelland, Palmer, Robinson, Breese, Browning, Trumbull, Shields, Yates and many other great men of the city and state at large.

"Its hall of representatives had

been made, in a measure, sacred by having held 'in state' the remains of President Lincoln. So full, indeed, was the time-honored structure with memories of the past that the sentiment was general that the old building should not be demolished and that its exterior appearance should remain unchanged."

In September, 1898, the late Thomas C. Mather offered a resolution for the building's renovation. A committee of investigation reported that upon examination the building was found to be inadequate and unsafe but that it did not desire to sell any portion of the ground, (the proceeds from which would be used toward a new building), advising instead that steps be taken to remodel and fireproof the structure.

Funds for renovating and refurbishing were finally obtained from a \$100,000 bond issue. S. J. Hanes and S. A. Bullard were employed to jointly supervise the work and the first contract was let on March 29, 1899 to Warren Roberts and Company, Chicago, for \$49,850. On April 5 a majority of county officers removed their offices and records to temporary quarters in the Odd Fellows building, Fourth and Monroe streets. The other officers found accommodations in nearby buildings.

Following the passage of a later resolution that the building should be raised for the preservation and improvement of its appearance, a second contract was made by which the whole structure was to be raised 11 feet and a complete story of Bedford sandstone built underneath it for \$27,500. A third contract was let for a new roof and dome for \$12,000.

Steel furniture, consisting of fire-proof file cases, book shelves, counters, etc., were put in for the sum of \$20,971. Wooden furniture, numbering tables, desks, chairs and other articles were added at a cost of \$11,750. The total expense came to \$175,000.

"As it is seen today," said Mr. Wallace in his history, "the building is a model of strength, convenience and beauty. It is in the form of a rectangle and is of the Grecian-Doric style of architecture. It is 123 feet long, 90 feet wide, and to the top of the flagstaff 154 feet in height. From the ground to the cornice line is 57 feet. The porticoes on the north and south project 11½ feet. There are three full floors for offices, and an upper story, in which the G. A. R. hall, the dormitory, the gallery of the circuit court and the storage rooms are located."

Undoubtedly the future will see this action taken and the court house will become a memorial building housing relics connected with the life of Springfield's first citizen—Abraham Lincoln.

Historically dignified, this proud edifice in which Lincoln made his famous "House Divided Against Itself" speech, still stands in the center of Lincoln square, an outstanding reminder of Sangamon county's rich heritage. Springfield citizens have often regretted that the building was raised and time and again the suggestion has been made that a new court house be erected and the present building restored to its original two stories.

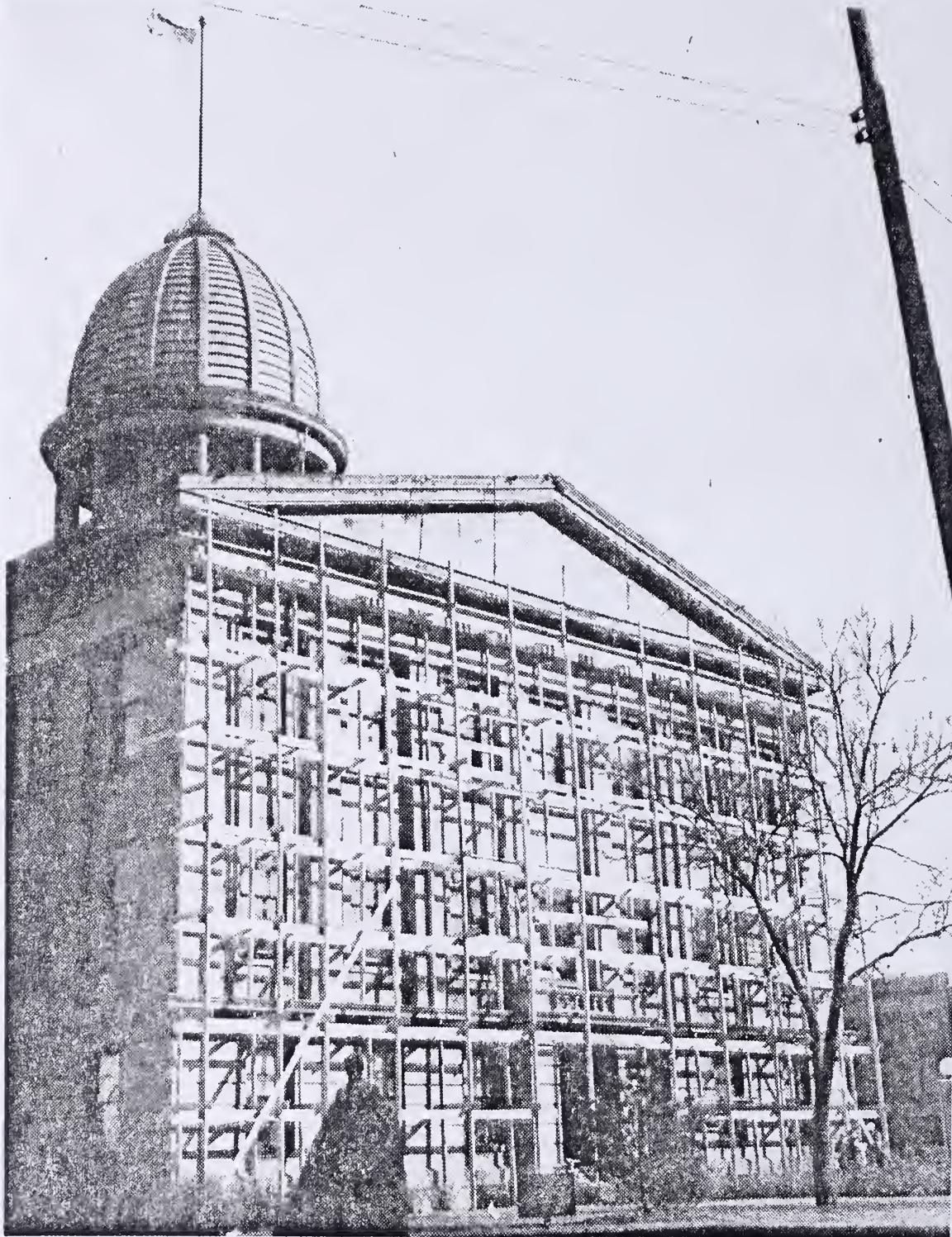
Rare Photograph Reveals Distinctive View Of Old State House



This rare picture of the old state house, now the Sangamon county courthouse, was given by the late Edward Gubitz, grocer at Fourth street and North Grand avenue for many years, to Richard Hopper, 1301 North Fourth street. It was one of the first pictures taken of the state house after its completion. Photographed from the west side of the square, the picture shows the courthouse that stood at the northeast corner of Sixth and Washington streets and next to it the old State bank, similar in architectural style. Off Sixth street on Adams street, the picture shows the American house.

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HISTORIC COURTHOUSE TO BE R



—State Journal Photo.

ERECT HUGE SCAFFOLD—Workmen today will mount the scaffold, shown above, on the west side of the courthouse, to ascertain and repair any damage done to the historic structure by the recent heavy snow and strong winds. Sheriff Harry A. Eielson said the snow loosened about six strips of the copper cornice at the peak of the gabled roof, and that the scaffold was built to enable workmen to reach the spot to repair the damage. The loosened strips, he said, have become hazardous to persons walking on the west side of the building, said to be the most historic edifice west of the Alleghenies, which for many years was the seat of government in Illinois. Abraham Lincoln served there as a member of the Illinois house of representatives. There he made his famous "house divided" speech, there he had his office after he was nominated for the presidency and there finally his body lay in state. The scaffold was built by the John Sime Construction Co. Griffith George, of the J. P. George & Son Co., will repair any damages found on the cornice.

Laying The Cornerstone

Parade, Dinner And Speech Marked Event At Old State House On Independence Day 100 Years Ago.

Independence day 100 years ago square to attend the cornerstone laying.

"was celebrated in Springfield with great eclat," in the words of Simeon Francis, editor of The Journal, in reporting the laying of the cornerstone of the old state house in his next issue, Saturday, July 8, 1837.

Military companies of the two were on parade, dinner was served in the Grove, and in the afternoon a procession formed at the First Presbyterian church, composed of members of the Mechanics institute and citizens. They were escorted to the Methodist church, where a Mr. Wiley spoke, and moved then to the

The committee in charge was composed of A. G. Henry, acting commissioner; J. F. Rague, president of the Mechanics institute and architect and superintendent of the building; B. Ferguson, vice president of the institute, and Abner Bennett, its secretary; Capt. G. Elkin of the Sharpshooters; Capt. F. S. Phillips of the Artillery company; Lieuts. William M. Cowgill and F. C. Thornton of the artillery and Lieuts. J. S. Roberts and J. N. Francis of the Sharpshooters.

Placed in the cornerstone were a list of the general officers of the

state; a copy of the seat of government act; copies of the journals of the last session of the legislature; "several species of American coin, comprising some of the late issues from the mint, as also some of the year 1795;" and the names of the architect and commissioners.

Maj. E. D. Baker mounted the cornerstone and gave "a short but

pertinent and animated address" in which he "anticipated the brilliant destiny of Illinois under the controlling influence of virtue and intelligence."

"The welkin rang with huzzas—a salute was fired—and the people and military retired, highly gratified with the proceedings of the day," Francis concluded.

FAMOUS ILLINOIS LANDMARK.

Text and Drawing by Frederick Polley



There is something positively intriguing if not altogether romantic in the life and habits of a vagabond. He appears to be fancy-free. He goes and comes at will, his own will. He sallies out into the open fields of fresh adventure in answer to that ancient instinct to "go places and see things."

If he is my kind of a vagabond he will have a plan, or an idea, or an incentive. He must have an Odyssey, a subtle sort of reason for his wandering. He should have some sublime excuse for his travels like, for instance, an abhorrent fear of becoming provincial.

There is great power of personal enrichment in travel if we journey with a clear mind and keen eyes. There are points of interest in every city of this country, but to enjoy them one must take with him a bit of divine intuition to see beauty and to create romance.

In Springfield, Ill., I found this interesting building, the old Statehouse. There was something about it that inspired me to sketch it. The corner policeman supplied the romance and gave me the thrilling historic background.

This old building, from 1837 to 1876, witnessed the rise of Abe Lincoln from an obscure country lawyer to his election as President of the United States. Any history of Lincoln must give an account of the expansion of his greatness during the years of his practice before the Supreme Court here in this building. It is said that he argued some 200 cases and prepared his briefs in the library located in the building.

The structure is now the Sangamon county Courthouse, remodeled in 1901 by raising it and adding a first story and a redesigned dome.

From The Old Stone Capitol Remembers
By Benj. F. Shambaugh

pp. 106-107

It was John F. Rague, the architect, who brought sense and proportion and art into the plans of the Capitol that was erected on Capitol Square. To him alone belongs the credit for whatever merit there is in the architectural design of the Territorial Capitol of Iowa. Who was this man Rague whose name is thus immortalized in the history of Iowa City? The question has been asked a thousand times. The most satisfying answer has come from the pen of the Rev. Dr. M. M. Hoffmann of Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa, in a brief article entitled John Francis Rague: Pioneer Architect of Iowa, published in 1934.

"John Francis Rague, born at Scotch Plains, N. J., March 24, 1799", reads the birth record in the family Bible that belonged to his mother. His father, who had served as surgeon in the French army, came to America with General Lafayette to take part in the War for Independence. Later he died from a wound which he had received in that war.

It was in the city of New York that John Francis Rague received an elementary education. As he grew to manhood he became enamored of the art that finds expression in architecture. Trained by the distinguished architect, Milard LeFevre, he busied himself with architectural work in New York City

(The Old Stone Capitol Remembers)

for some years before coming to Illinois in 1831.
He located in the town of Springfield. Here he
pursued his chosen profession; sang in the choir
of the Presbyterian church; met Stephen A. Douglas;
formed the acquaintance of Mary Todd; and groomed
Abraham Lincoln for a dance.

Rotarians Hear Of Memorial Gardens

Development of the Abraham Lincoln Memorial gardens at Lake Springfield from a near wasteland to one of the most beautiful garden spots in the state, was explained by Mrs. T. J. Knudson in a talk before the Springfield Rotary club last night.

Mrs. Knudson, who took a leading role in the movement to establish the gardens at the lake in memory of Lincoln, gave a review of the work, incident to the laying out and planting, at a dinner meeting of the club in the Leland hotel. Mrs. Knudson, resident chairman and central regional chairman of the Garden Club of Illinois, was introduced by James M. Graham, president of the Springfield Civic Garden association.

The movement was begun in 1933, with the Springfield Civic Garden association as sponsors. Later it was taken over by the Garden Club of Illinois as a major project of that organization, Mrs. Knudson stated.

Mrs. Knudson then told of the selection of the sixty acre site along the shores of Lake Springfield, the landscaping by Jens Jenson, noted landscape architect; the first planting in the fall of 1937; the major planting project which was launched in the spring of 1938; the work of Mrs. Charles R. Walgreen of Chicago, who made cash contributions to further the work, and the activities of other garden chapters in the state.

Since the first planting, Mrs. Knudson said, there have been 12,000 crab apple trees, 4,000 red bud shrubs, 14,000 wild flower plants and 2,000 bluebell plantings set out in an orderly arrangement on the site. Thirteen small bridges and one seventy-five foot bridge, spanning natural draws, may also be found in the outdoor paradise. Eight council rings representing states in the union are located in the layout.

At the close of her talk, colored films were shown of the dedication of the garden site in 1935 and the second pilgrimage held last May.

1741

Lincoln's Courthouse

Ever since Abe Lincoln and the Sangamon "Long Nine" talked the Illinois Legislature of 1837 into moving the capital to Springfield, the Old State House there has been a periodic source of confab for architects. Here's where young Abe ground his mind to razor-edge in the years preceding the rainy dawn he said goodbye and rode away to Washington for the last time. Here's where he won his first skirmishes before the bench of the Supreme Court, and where folks flocked during the State Fair of 1857 to see the backwoods Republican stand up to the urbane Democrat, Steve Douglas, on the matter of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill and "popular sovereignty." In 1858, in its hall of Representatives, they saw his sad eyes glitter and his jaws set tight . . . "A house divided against itself cannot stand . . ." Seven years later, they shuffled in silent queue past his coffin.

Once the chunky State House commanded the very heart of the city. Now it's made tiny by the modern office buildings around the Square. In 1868 it lost the dignity of being the Capitol. People said it was too small for a great state like Illinois. It was sold to Sangamon County for a courthouse. By 1890 Sangamon County began wailing, the building was not large enough for their use either. Mutterings grew to destroy it and build

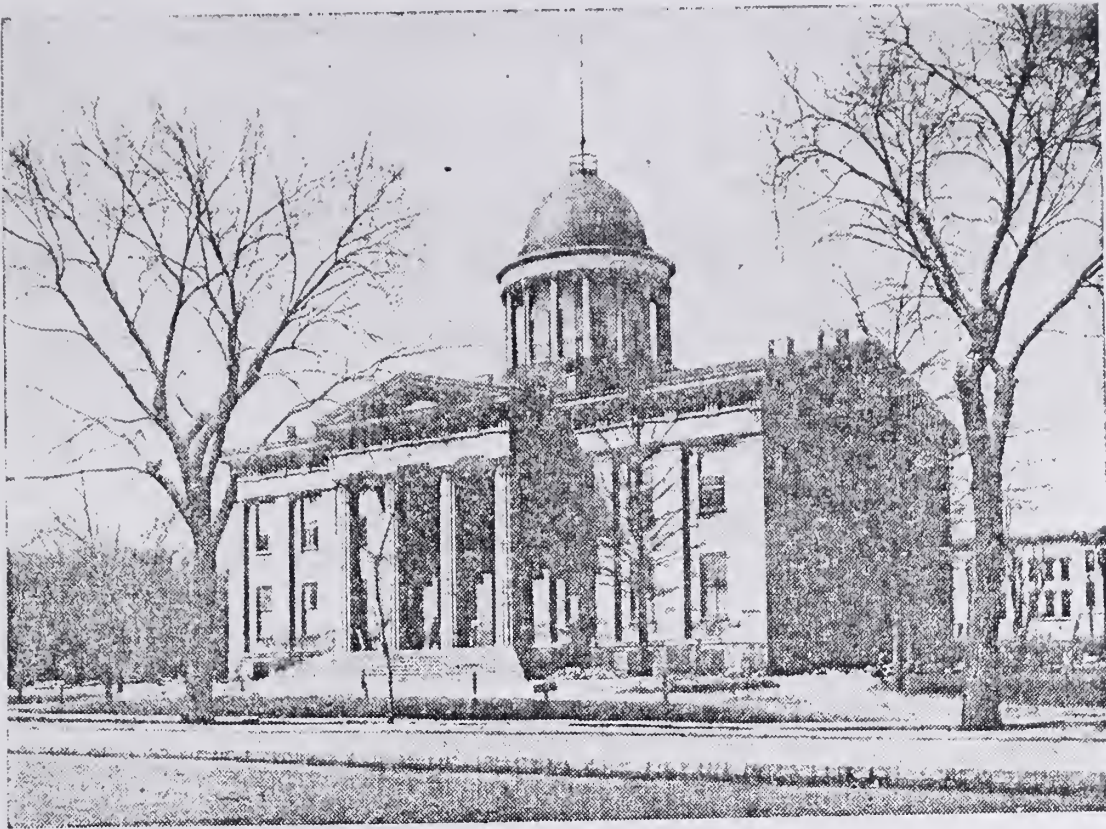


Herbert Georg Studio

SPRINGFIELD COURTHOUSE—They'll put it back as Lincoln knew it, fill with Lincolniana.

COURTHOUSE

OLD STATE HOUSE IN 1876



This is the way the old state capitol building looked in 1876. Reconstruction and rehabilitation will bring the present structure back to the lines of this period.

To Restore Old Capitol

State Buys Old Sangamon County Courthouse Which Once Served As Seat Of Government.

Illinois' fourth state capitol building, now the Sangamon county courthouse, will soon become the property of the state under a purchase agreement with the county board of supervisors.

Funds for purchasing the building and for its rehabilitation and remodeling were appropriated by the last general assembly and approved by Gov. Dwight H. Green. Of the total \$1,268,000 appropriated, \$600,000 will be paid Sangamon county for the historic building and the remainder will be devoted to restoring the building to its appearance and condition at the time it housed the government of Illinois.

Since the structure is rich in Lincoln associations it is the intention of the state to establish it pre-eminently as a Lincoln memorial, typical of the period during which the Civil war president lived in Springfield.

Await Negotiations.

Actual start of the work on reconstruction of the courthouse is awaiting disposition of negotiations between county officials and Walter A. Rosenfield, director of public works and buildings, and completion of the extensive drawings required by the office of C. Herick Hammond, state architect. A permanent custodian and other attendants necessary to maintain the

building are also part of the program of the state division of parks and memorials, Director Rosenfield indicated.

Approximately two years will be consumed in changing the building into a facsimile of its 1860 appearance, according to estimates of the state architect's office. Major operations in the forthcoming transformation will include elimination of the entire first floor, which was not a part of the original edifice; replacement of the dome in accordance with its original design; complete alteration of the interior arrangements and refurnishing throughout in the mode of the earlier period of its existence.

Society To Help.

The old courthouse, when restored, is expected ultimately to become a unique repository of Lincoln artifacts, the site of numerous valuable collections connected with the life and public career of the Great Emancipator. William C. Baringer, executive secretary of the Abraham Lincoln association, which provided the furnishings now a part of the Lincoln home here, indicated today that the association will co-operate to the fullest extent in securing similar appointments for the courthouse.

2112 Journal
A. J. F. 19.1
A 327, 1745

Court House Cornerstone Laid 100 Years Ago Next Sunday; Lincoln Present

One hundred years ago next Sunday, on July 4, 1837, the official laying of the cornerstone of the new state house, the first to be erected in Springfield, took place before several thousand persons who gathered here from throughout central Illinois.

Marking a fitting climax to the bitter struggle against opposition to bringing the state capital to Springfield from mVandalia, the ceremonies took place in a gay occasion that far outstripped the regular Fourth of July celebration of that year.

Lincoln Present

Prominent among the spectators and one who probably stood in the front rows and was introduced to the crowd, was Abraham Lincoln, a young attorney, already serving his second term in the legislature, who had moved to Springfield in February of that same year from New Salem and entered a law partnership with John T. Stuart.

No time had been wasted in commencing work on the capitol building, which now serves as the Sangamon county court house with the addition of a new first story, for on March 11, 1837, less than two weeks after the "long nine" had succeeded in passing the bill in the legislature with the aid of Lincoln's persuasive eloquence, the county commissioners conveyed the public square to Governor Duncan.

April brought advertisements offering a premium of \$500 for a plan to be used in erecting the new state house and published in leading papers of Illinois and nearby states. By the last of May the court house had been removed and by mid-June the excavation was almost completed.

Piles of limestone rock and sand were standing on the square when the elaborate ceremonies were planned for the cornerstone laying.

Military companies, including Captain Thomas M. eale's newly organized cavalry, fired a salute at sunrise on that July fourth morning a century ago, and spent the entire morning in parading and drilling about the business district and square.

Members of the Mechanics' institute formed a procession shortly after noon and marched to the Methodist church, where Edmund R. Wiley

delivered an address. The citizen then marched to the state house site

E. D. Baker Spoke

E. D. Baker mounted the cornerstone after it was edged into place and gave an address, and the ceremony closed with more military salutes and cheering from the crowd who witnessed the impressive event.

The original plans for the new state house, drawn up by Springfield's baker-architect, John F. Rague, called for a brick superstructure on a stone foundation, but long lines of oxen drawing heavy blocks of stone to Springfield from the quarry south of Cotton Hill had acquainted the people with the attractiveness of its warm buff color, and the public sentiment was in favor of using this stone as the proper material for the state house.

Retains Coloring

Today the second and third floors of the county court house show that the change of plans for the outside stone of the state house was a favorable one, for it still retains its warm coloring despite a century of sun and rain.

As the foundation neared its completion, members of the legislature urged the commissioners to construct the walls of stone instead of brick and in December, when outdoor work was stopped for the winter, the commissioners finally announced their decision to construct the building in stone.

Work on the state house continued throughout the next two years, and it was ready for partial occupancy by early 1840. However, years were to elapse before it presented a finished appearance.

For instance, in 1843 a newspaper commented on the fact that the roof leaked, and that much of the stone intended for the front columns was lying about the yard, a daily danger of injury. The building was not completed until 1853, a total of 16 years after the cornerstone was laid.

By 1869 the state house had proven inadequate for the growing needs of Illinois, and it was conveyed by the state to Sangamon county for county purposes in 1876.

If Lincoln's Spirit Should Walk In Springfield Now...

By Tom Littlewood
Sun-Times Bureau

SPRINGFIELD—If indeed, as the poet Lindsay believed, the spirit of the great Prairie President revisited Springfield, Lincoln would be amused and dismayed, proud and sad, at what he found.

This region which Honest Old Abe left to go to Washing-

Pictures on Page 34

ton remains a citadel of historical heritage, and a focal point of present-day government, too.

Here the lore and the lure of Lincoln have been preserved—though encased in commercialism—both for the busloads of school children and for the legions of tourists, among them, curiously, many Southerners.

Commercialism At Tomb

There is little doubt that Lincoln would frown at the souvenir shop outside the very gates of the cemetery where, in a majestic tomb, his bones rest.

You can buy a \$4 "Lincoln home marmalade dish" shaped like Lincoln's house and booklets that humanize Lincoln's love life.

It would seem, from many

practiced in the Statehouse today.

For Lincoln was, before all, a master politician.

Helped Move Capital

He would chuckle at the efforts of modern legislators to wield influence for construction, say, of a drainage ditch in Stickney Twp.

It was he and the other "Long Nine" legislators from Sangamon County who brought pressure for transfer of the state capital from Vandalia to Springfield in 1840.

Consider the prestige, for example, of a Chicagoan who could move the capital to State and Madison.

He would muse, too, at how many small-town politicians

want to know two recent tenants of the Executive Mansion, which he and his sons watched being built 101 years ago.

Adlai E. Stevenson and Lincoln could find much to talk about. In the Lincolnian tradition, former Gov. Stevenson attempted to uplift the level of political communication and inject a dash of pungent humor into campaign oratory.

He Told Antecedotes

"Mr. Lincoln begged leave to tell an anecdote," was a familiar phrase in the General Assembly

journal when Abe was a legislator.

The Illinois State Register of Nov. 23, 1839, scolded Lincoln for having "a sort of assumed clownishness in his manner which does not become him."

William G. Stratton, the present governor, also shares an interest with Lincoln—love for the tree-lined Sangamon River that meanders through cornfields and woodlands.

On The Historic Sangamon

Stratton, like Lincoln, is expert at reading the tricky currents in the river between Springfield and New Salem. In the same waters where Lincoln maneuvered a log flatboat, Stratton pilots his \$5,000 houseboat with radar depth apparatus.

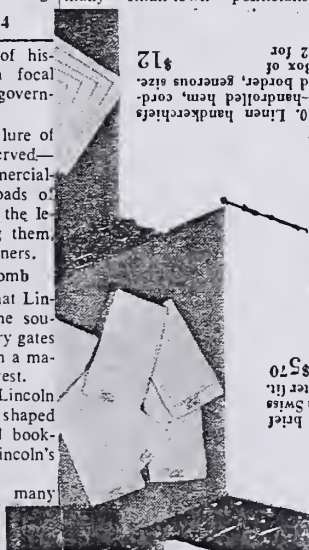
Significantly, when Lincoln first ran for the Legislature in 1832, his main issue was opposition to a proposed railroad from Jacksonville to Springfield. He argued that making the Sangamon River navigable made more sense.

The New Salem-Springfield trail that Lincoln trudged to borrow law books—and over which today's Boy Scouts trudge in pursuit of a merit badge—would be unrecognizable.

The farms it skirts are scientific, big-business agricultural spreads. One has two Aberdeen Angus bulls valued at \$500,000.

A disillusioning farewell stop on Lincoln's visit might be the John Hays public housing project in Springfield. There the man who freed the slaves would see in his own home

town, nearly 100 years after his death, strict residential segregation of Negro tenants from their white neighbors.



school children. In the regions of tourists, among them, curiously, many Southerners.

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It would seem, from many souvenir items, that Abe was sort of an ax-swinging Elvis Presley.

More certain would be Lincoln's interest in the politics

time, Lincoln would discover. In the Courthouse—which was the Statehouse in Lincoln's time—a clique of county politicians stands around Kenny's coffee spot debating such immense issues as patronage in the recorder's office.

• Over the same route that a train brought Lincoln's body to its resting place in 1865, today's legislators ride to their weekly lawmaking stint—clowning and downing highballs in the club car.

Nearly Fought Duel

Lincoln probably would have been quite interested in the recent difficulties of former State Auditor Orville E. Hodge, now behind bars for stealing public funds.

In 1842, Lincoln almost fought a duel after sending in letters to a newspaper ridiculing James Shields, then state auditor, who also was accused of "irregularities in fiscal affairs."

The Lincoln home—only one he ever owned—would surely stimulate memories. Even today Mrs. Lincoln's dresser is cluttered with medicine bottles, relics of the many ailments that plagued Mary Lincoln and severely strained her husband's nerves.

Mementos Dug Up

That many of these bottles were dug up by snooping historians beneath the Lincolns' outdoor privy likewise would amuse Abe.

Lincoln most likely would

trudge in pursuit of a merit badge—would be unrecognizable.

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Speech Revives Interest In Restoration Of Courthouse

By MALDEN JONES

Public observance during the past week of the 100th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's classic "house divided" speech has sparked fresh interest in restoration of the Sangamon County Courthouse to its original form as Illinois' historic capitol.

The train of powder that might fuse a blast of concerted and successful action is a fascinating document newly published and distributed as a genuine public service by the Sangamon County Bar Assn.

Bearing the significant title, "The House of the House Divided," the 40-page pamphlet is a full reprint of a brilliant and

long overlooked address delivered in the circuit courtroom Feb. 12, 1924, by the late Henry A. Converse, a distinguished leader of the Sangamon County Bar.

This latter day publication of the story of one of our nation's most famed and sorely neglected public buildings is actually a re-issue that appeared initially as the first volume of papers published by the old Lincoln Centennial Assn.

Few Read Story

In those days only a small segment of the community had an opportunity to take a first hand look at Converse's factual story which should have seen the light of day in greater numbers.

If that approach had been followed and modern day publicity techniques applied to the project, it is possible it might have carried in either of two unsuccessful attempts at the polls of the early 1940s.

Atty. Lacey Catron, president of the bar group, and his colleagues now will ensure full-scale distribution of this masterful story to civic leaders, teachers and students of government and, more important, to members of the Sangamon County Board of Supervisors plus other public officials.

The document actually pays tribute to two outstanding Springfield lawyers—Converse and the late John Palmer Snigg—who shared a common sense of awareness in the enduring value of a dream they sought to translate into reality.

Like Converse, John Snigg also owned a reverence for the rich traditions of our town and the role played by great men who made it famous for all time. And so both men fought hard in their own ways to achieve the same goal.

This thought was expressed in better fashion in the bar association's memorial for Converse on Jan. 24, 1953.

"From this family descent and this atmosphere in which his early years passed he acquired a strong feeling of being a part of the history of an important community in an important time.

"He was thus imbued with a loving reverence for a tradition of noble living, and a view that preserving that tradition ennobled the life of the city of Springfield and all that touched it, by being an integral part of the present life of the city.

Valiant Effort

"This idea was the inspiration of his valiant and sustained effort to have the present courthouse in Springfield taken by the state of Illinois as a permanent shrine."

In his smoothly written story, Converse refers to "this parcel of ground, so long and familiarly known as the court house square . . . the setting for a splendid rugged old building that houses within its walls some of the very finest of our national traditions."

And then he adds: "And how unmindful we have been of this rare possession . . . but thoughtless as we may have been, for more than a half century (this statement was made in 1924) this building has stood, the very center of our civic activities, a grim and silent witness of a departed greatness."

Looking at the full picture, Converse chided his listeners and his fellow citizens with this remark, an observation that applies with equal force 34 years later:

Reflects Ancient Greece

"Possibly our conduct has been but natural, like that of children, who do not mean to be irreverent or disrespectful, but now it would seem to be the time for us to be grown up and to grasp the full, mature realization that this county building, the old state capitol, is the most historic building west of the Alleghenies, and one of the most historic in the United States; a building whose beautiful classical lines reflect the departed glory of ancient Greece."

Obviously, Converse was thinking of the edifice in its first form because architectural design and structural changes—particularly

the addition of another floor and a harsh looking dome far different than the colonial cupola that surmounted it from 1840 to 1899—had made it bulky and out of proportion.

It was just another way of saying later changes had robbed it of quaint charm.

What are some historical highlights connected with that old building during the time it was used as the seat of state government from 1840 to 1876?

A full list would be impressive and lengthy and in any event awesome. For instance, its walls sheltered and witnessed a greater part of Abraham Lincoln's official life as a representative, lawyer, candidate and a man elected to the presidency.

Elect 11 Senators

The most eminent figures who charted the rise of Illinois as a great state appeared at one time or another in the building.

Eleven United States senators, including Stephen A. Douglas, were elected there in joint sessions of the two houses of the Legislature. Douglas and Lyman Trumbull both were thrice elected to this office.

The era embraced the regimes of 10 governors, 13 famed Supreme Court justices, 10 secretaries of state, 11 state treasurers, seven auditors and five superintendents of public instruction.

Illinois' present constitution was drafted there in 1870 as well as the 1847 counterpart at two constitutional conventions.

Lincoln's best remembered public appearance was June 16, 1858, when he delivered his "house divided" speech and set the stage for a clear-cut and tragic showdown on the slavery question.

One Speech—Fame

His vigorous definition of a burning issue in the old house chamber, now the circuit courtroom, literally projected him into the presidency.

"The fact that this great address," Converse sagely observed in his historical summary, "is enough to make this edifice historically famous."

John Hay, then a young man eager for advancement, served first in this building as a beginning secretary with John Nicolay during the time Lincoln held forth in the months following his election and prior to his departure for Washington.

Hay became secretary of state under President Theodore Roosevelt, enunciated the "Open Door" policy in China and negotiated the Hay-Pauncefote treaty with France that led to acquisition of the Panama Canal territory.

Man Ignored

To this building also came a 39-year-old West Point graduate at the outbreak of the Civil War, a man virtually ignored in his appeal for a commission with troops in the field.

Ulysses S. Grant sat in the courthouse for weeks and finally got a job drilling troops at \$60 a month. Finally and only after Jesse K. DuBois, then the state auditor, spotted his soldierly traits, Grant was commissioned a colonel of the unruly and badly disciplined 21st Illinois infantry regiment.

Grant strode from the building in the summer of 1861, marched out of Camp Yates in the west end of the city at the head of the regiment, "and started on foot down the Jacksonville road, headed for Quincy."

It was a path that led to the position of commanding general of the armies of the Union, and in eight years to the presidency.

These are just a few of the dra-

FUTURE LINCOLN SHRINE

State Pays \$975,000 For Its Old Capitol

Sun-Times Bureau

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Illinois, which sold its state capitol for \$200,000 in 1869, bought

it back Friday for \$975,000.

The old building, located in downtown Springfield, had been used as the Sangamon County Courthouse after the state sold it and moved into the present capitol.

In ceremonies in Gov. Kerner's office, Sangamon County officials accepted the \$975,000 check, then promptly handed Kerner a check for \$14,625, payment of the first month's rent by the county which will continue to occupy the building for the next two years. By that time the county's new courthouse is expected to be finished.

When the county moves out of the 125-year-old structure, the state will turn it into a Lincoln shrine. It was here that Lincoln made his famous "House Divided" speech and where he served in the State Legislature.



Sangamon County Courthouse will become a Lincoln shrine.

6-30-62

Springfield Star
Springfield, Illinois
June 4, 1964

Lincoln Shrine Fund Drive Brings Restoration Gifts

Gifts for the \$250,000 fund drive for the restoration of the Old Capitol of Illinois are beginning to roll in. That was the announcement of Robert E. Miller Jr. heading the Springfield and Central Illinois campaign. President O. J. Keller of the

Abraham Lincoln Association announced the drive and appointment of committee chairmen after meeting with Gov. Otto Kerner.

Miller disclosed his principal campaign aides will be Lewis L. Herndon for the special gifts division and Mrs. Charles Becker Jr. for individual subscriptions. It is expected the first disclosure of money contributed will be made next week.

It is planned to restore the present Sangamon County courthouse to its general structural appearance at the time President Lincoln was in it regularly as an attorney and during the Civil War era.

The larger part of the restoration costs will be furnished by the State of Illinois. It is also planned to move the State Historical Library from its present location in the Centennial Building to the Old Capitol.

Gov. Kerner requested the association to consult with state officials in preparing the restoration and campaign to raise private funds to help in the work. One of the features of the restoration will be removal of the present first floor which was added at the turn of the century.

After conferring with the governor and recognizing the tourist and community asset the restored capitol would be to Springfield, the association agreed on the \$250,000 figure it has undertaken to raise.

Special gifts solicitations are underway now and the balance of the campaigning will begin shortly. Miller said initial response from a few larger firms



Mrs. Charles Becker Jr. will head the drive for individual subscriptions for Old Capitol restoration.

to which the project has been outlined has been encouraging.

Miller is vice president and secretary of the Frye Printing Co. He lives at 1910 Wiggins Ave. Herndon is president of the Faultless Milling Co. and lives at 41 Linden Lane. Mrs. Becker is active in the Junior League and other civic groups. She and her husband live at 1900 W. Lawrence Ave.

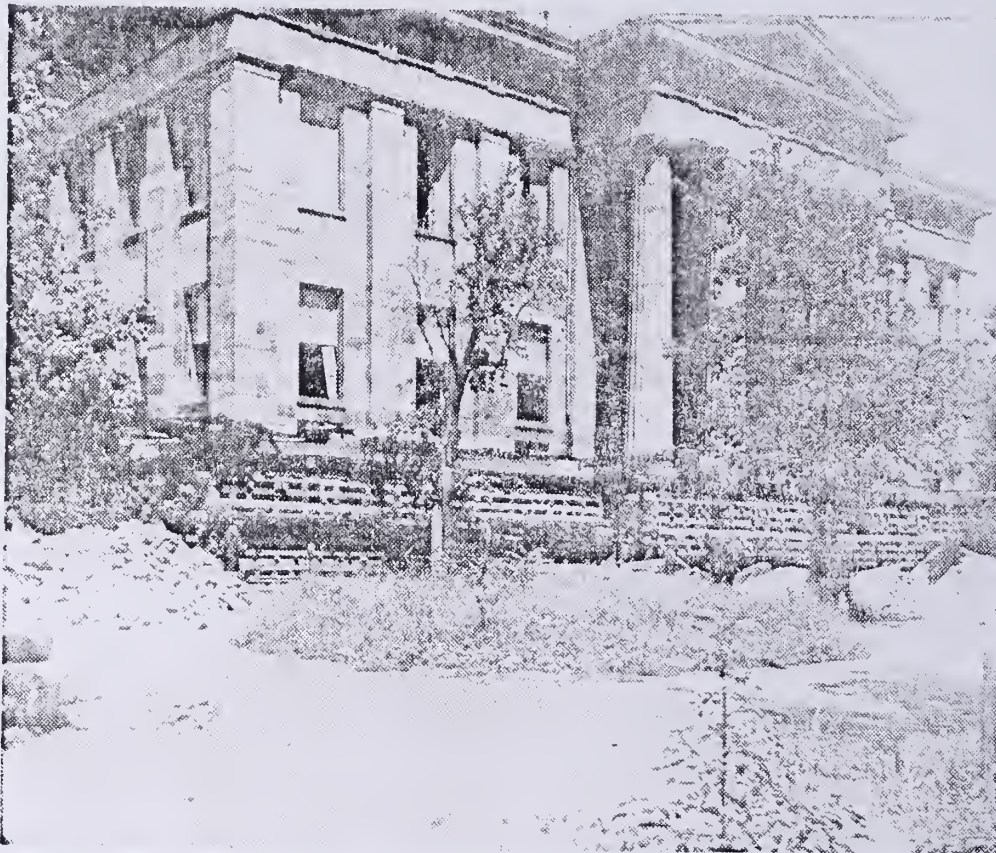


Robert E. Miller Jr. is the general chairman of the \$250,000 fund drive for the restoration of Old Capitol.



Lewis L. Herndon will head the special gifts division of the Old Capitol restoration fund drive.

Do You Remember?



Another timely photo to come from the State Register files is this picture taken in 1899 when workmen were starting to raise the old Courthouse another floor. The seat of the state government was moved to the center of the public square in 1837 from Vandalia. The fourth Capitol of Illinois was built of stone quarried in Cotton Hill Township. This building served the state lawmakers until the new State Capitol was built in 1876. The old State House was then sold to Sanga-

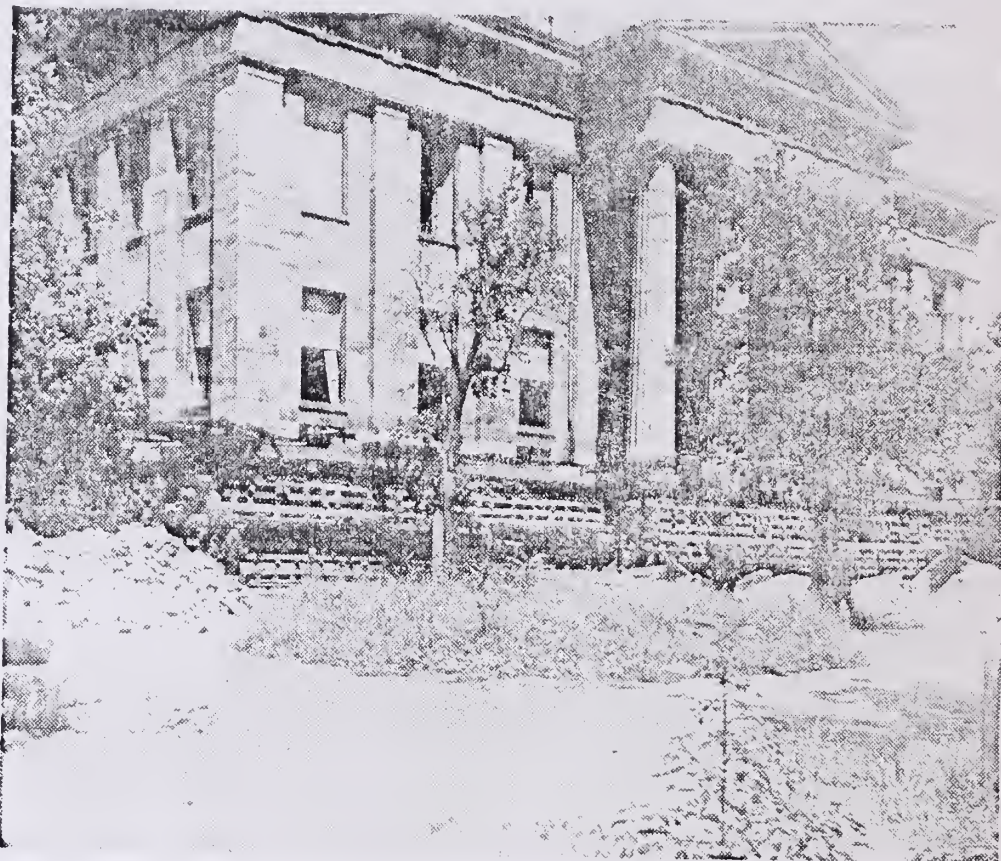
mon County. It served the county until the need for more space reached its peak in 1897. The renovation of the old building was decided in 1899 and the project was completed that same year. The building was raised one story and a new roof and dome were installed. Now the building has been sold back to the state and plans are underway to "renovate" it back to its original design. (Engraving from the Register files. Persons who wish may submit photos for use in this feature.)

CAPITOL GUIDE

ISSUED BY
PAUL POWELL
Secretary of State



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Removal Caused by Speculators

The removal of the Capital from Kaskaskia to Vandalia grew out of a mania for speculation on the part of some of the State's early citizens who thought that money could be made by starting a land boom in a new location.

The origin of the name "Vandalia" is not known. For many years credence was given to the story that some wag managed to convince the founders that the spot had been inhabited by an extinct tribe of savages known as "Vandals." The most plausible suggested origin is that of Vandalia, Ohio. In 1775, forty-five years before the establishment of the new Illinois town, the Ohio Land Company's name had been changed to the Vandalia Land Company. From this sprang the name Vandalia, Ohio. Regardless of where the name originated the "city planners" proceeded to justify the story of vandalism by uprooting all the trees which might have shaded the public square and streets.

Kaskaskia Destroyed by River

After Vandalia became the Capital in 1820, Kaskaskia deteriorated, gradually disappearing under the waters of the Mississippi River which lapped its shores. In 1881, the river went on one of its many rampages, changed its course, moving eastward and then southwest to find its old channel. When the turbulent water had subsided an island had been created and a considerable portion of the ancient capital city had been washed away. Each recurring spring flood encroached further upon the site until the last vestige of historic Kaskaskia slipped into the Mississippi.

On the remaining portion of the present island is a farming community of around 150 persons and the island still bears the name Kaskaskia, perhaps to perpetuate in memory the little Capital which lies beneath the muddy Mississippi.

Original Capitol at Vandalia

A plain two story frame structure was erected in Vandalia. The lower floor was devoted to one room for the House of Representatives. A passage and stairway led to the second floor which consisted of two rooms, the larger for the Senate Chamber and the smaller for the Council of Revision. The Secretary of State, Auditor and Treasurer occupied rented offices detached from the Capitol.



The building above was the State's fifth Capitol. It is now the Sangamon County Court House. Recently it was purchased by the State and is to become a Lincoln Shrine. Certain alterations were made to the building, the most remarkable being that of raising the entire structure and building under it, what now is the ground floor of the Court House (below).



The State's Archives, consisting of a small wagonload were removed from Kaskaskia to Vandalia by Sidney Breese, then clerk to the Secretary of State who later became a Supreme Court Justice and U. S. Senator. Breese was paid \$25.00 for his labor.

The first session of the Second General Assembly met in the first State-owned Capitol on December 4, 1820 and during its sitting passed an act making Vandalia the seat of government for the next twenty years

On December 9, 1823 fire destroyed this first State-owned Capitol. During the summer of 1824 a new building was constructed of brick at a cost of \$15,000. Soon thereafter agitation was started for the removal of the Capital to a site nearer the geographical center of the State. This sentiment caused the General Assembly to pass an act in 1833 whereby the voters at the following general election could decide the location for a new Capital city.

The sites on which the vote was to be taken were Vandalia, Jacksonville, Springfield, Peoria, Alton, and the State's geographical center. Alton received the greatest number of votes but the margin was so small as to be inconclusive, and the vote was not announced officially as it would undoubtedly have been rejected by the next General Assembly. So the suggested removal from Vandalia was dropped until the 1836-37 session revived the question.

Lincoln suggests Springfield

Matters then took a very different turn for the proposal was interesting a rising young lawyer known as Abraham Lincoln who represented Sangamon County. Lincoln was the leader for removal of the Capital of Illinois to Springfield, and he was backed by eight fellow members who with him were known as the Long Nine because their aggregate height was 54 feet.

Residents of Vandalia were determined that they should retain the Capital so in the summer of 1836, without authorization, and while the legislature was recessed, they tore down the old Capitol. In its stead they erected a State House costing \$16,000. This gesture, however, was in vain for with the return of the General Assembly Lincoln was successful in having Springfield named as Illinois' new Capital.



On February 25, 1837, the Assembly passed a bill providing that the Capital be moved from Vandalia to some place nearer the center of the State and three days later—February 28, 1837—Springfield was chosen as the new Capital City. Because of the Act of Assembly in 1820, Vandalia was to continue as the Capital until December 1, 1840, but on June 20, 1839, Governor Thomas Carlin issued a proclamation that all State records be removed to Springfield by July 4, 1839. However, the State Government did not actually function in Springfield until December, 1839.

The Eleventh General Assembly returned the Vandalia Capitol to the county of Fayette and the city of Vandalia, and the old State House still stands, though now again is State property.

The cornerstone of the State's fifth Capitol was laid at Springfield on July 4, 1837. After many delays the building finally was completed in 1853 at a total cost of \$260,000, double its original estimate.

The building occupied the center of the square nearly three acres in extent, and was constructed of cut stone brought from a quarry six miles away. The building took 15 years to complete but was considered one of the architectural wonders of the State.

Springfield Site of Famous Speech

This building is rich in Lincoln associations. After Lincoln became a resident of Springfield in 1837 he was, of course, one of the regular frequenters of the State House. In addition to serving in the legislature he appeared and argued cases before the Supreme Court, located in the edifice, and made frequent use of the State and Supreme Court libraries. In this building he first took public issue with Douglas, here he made his famous "House divided against itself" speech, here were his headquarters during his 1860 campaign for the Presidency, and here finally his remains rested on May 4, 1865, before burial at Oak Ridge.

Present State House Planned in 1867

Illinois continued to prosper and gain in population and soon it was apparent that a much larger Capitol would be needed. The enabling act was passed by the 25th General Assembly on February 24, 1867. This was the fifth of the buildings owned by the State and the one in use today.

The old Capitol at Springfield was sold to Sangamon County for \$200,000. The deed was executed October 23, 1869, nearly seven years before the present Capitol was used. Certain alterations were made to this old building, the most remarkable one being that of raising the massive two-story structure high off the ground and while suspended the present ground floor of the Sangamon County Court House was built.

Ground was broken for the present Capitol, March 11, 1868. Formal laying of the cornerstone took place October 5th of the same year. Still unfinished, the building was first occupied in 1876. Twenty-one years after the Legislature first authorized its construction, the building finally was completed. Originally construction costs were limited to \$3,000,000, but before completion expenditures amounted to more than \$4,500,000.

Capitol on Nine Acre Plot

The present Capitol, situated on a nine acre plot, is in the form of a Latin Cross. The circular foundation, 92½ feet in diameter, upon which the vast dome rests, is 25½ feet below the grade line, set on solid rock. It is interesting to know that many feet below runs one of the richest veins of Illinois coal.

The walls supporting the dome are 17 feet thick from the foundation to the first story. They are built of granular magnesian limestone from quarries of Hancock County.

The outer walls of the superstructure are of Niagara limestone, that of the lower stories from the quarries of Joliet, and that of the upper stories from Lemont.

The extreme length of the building from north to south is 379 feet, and from east to west 268 feet. The height from the ground line to the top of the dome is 361 feet, and to the tip of the flagstaff 405 feet, the highest building in central Illinois. This led to the choice of the State House dome for the installation of the red beacon which glows through the night as a guidance for pilots. In 1949 the beacon was equipped with an electronic "eye" which turns the light on when visibility reaches a certain low—day or night. It used to operate on a clock device which turned the lights on in the evening and off in the morning, making no provision for foggy or overcast days.

Guide to Illinois Capitol

OFFICES OF the present State Capitol, which is under the custody of the Secretary of State, are grouped on each floor about a rotunda which rises to the great dome. On the first floor facing toward the east and in the center of the building is a bronze figure representing Illinois welcoming the world to the Columbian Exposition of 1893. This figure was in the Illinois building at the Exposition and was afterward presented to the State by the women of Illinois.

Radiating from this central figure are four corridors leading to various State offices. In the north corridor are the offices of the State Treasurer, Department of Financial Institutions and the central offices of the Insurance Department.

In the south corridor are the offices of the Department of Registration and Education, the Secretary of State's office of Supplies, the Securities and Shipping Divisions.

In the west corridor is a portion of the Personnel Department and a branch of the Treasurer's Office.

On the second floor in the east corridor are the offices of the Governor and the Secretary of State. The Governor's new reception room is located at the end of the east corridor.

A portrait of the late Congressman Henry T. Rainey of Carrollton, Ill., Speaker of the House of Representatives at Washington at the time of his death August 19, 1934, hangs on the east wall beside the entrance to the Governor's Reception Room. He served as representative from the 20th District from 1903 until the time of his death with the exception of one term. The portrait is the work of Hans Schlereth. A painting of the late United States Senator James Hamilton Lewis by the eminent artist Louis Betts has been hung in the East wing of the second floor of the Capitol.

Off the north corridor are the central offices of the Auditor, the banking Division of the Treasurer and the central office of the Department of Finance. In the south corridor are the offices of the Secretary of State's Corporation Department. In the west wing are located offices of the three general supervisors of the Secretary of State's office; the Secretary's Personnel, Index, Disbursement, Property Control and Purchasing Divisions along with the

Superintendent of Buildings are in this corridor. Also in this wing are the Governor's Administrative Assistants.

House and Senate on Third Floor

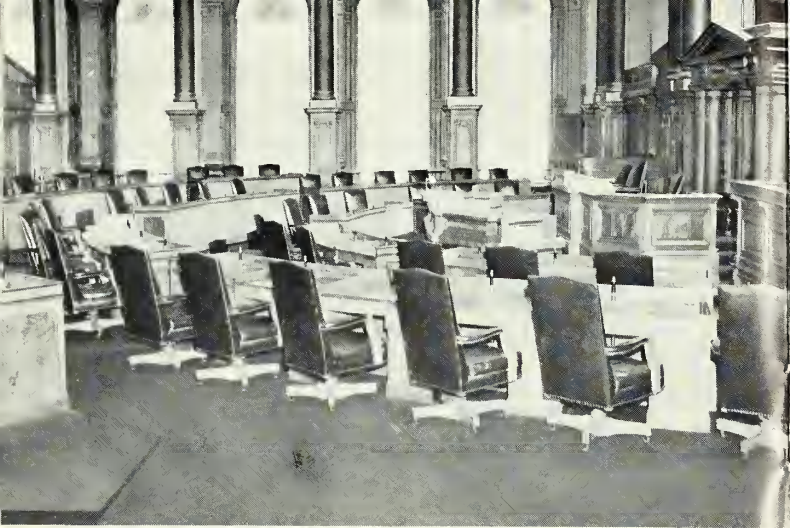
On the third floor of the Capitol are the chambers of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the House being on the south and the Senate on the north side. Back of these two chambers are the offices of the Speaker and the Lieutenant Governor, respective presiding officers of the House and Senate, also committee rooms and lounges. On the third floor is also found the Legislative Reference Bureau.

On the mezzanine are additional committee rooms and the Legislative Council.

The walls of the rotunda and the corridors are mosaic work in vari-colored marbles. The walls of the rotunda in the first and second stories and at the base of the dome's arches as well as the arches themselves are of solid stone faced with Bedford blue limestone and Missouri red granite. The grand stairway leading from the second to the third floor in the west wing of the building is constructed of various kinds of solid marble, as are also the columns, pilasters, arches rails, balusters and wainscoting.

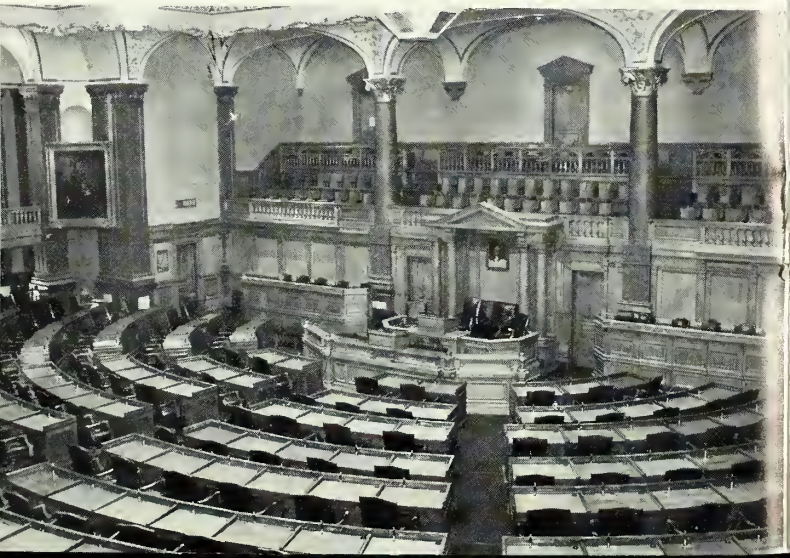
The polished columns in the third story of the rotunda are of Missouri red granite with bases of blue granite and rich foliated Tuckahoe marble. The wainscoting of the corridors of vari-colored marbles, domestic and imported including white Italian, Alps green, Lisbon, Glen Falls, old Tennessee, and Concord, is artistically constructed and the work is highly esteemed for its beauty and durability.

Mural decorations and statuary are used conspicuously throughout the Capitol. Most frequently inspected by visitors are the murals of the north and south corridors on the first floor. They represent events and scenes closely connected with the history of Illinois, such as old Fort Chartres on the Mississippi, Starved Rock, old Fort Dearborn, New Salem in Lincoln's time, General Grant taking command of the troops at Cairo during the Civil War, Marquette and Joliet in conference with Indians, and Governor Coles, liberating his slaves on his way to Illinois down the Ohio River. These murals were not executed by any well known artist but resulted from a contract with a decorating company years ago. While they are inaccurate their



Senate Chambers.

House of Representatives.



value lies in the fact that they are part of our storied past.

At the head of the first landing of the grand stairway is a huge painting representing Col. George Rogers Clark effecting a treaty with the Indians in 1778 at Fort Gage after he had captured it and forever ended British occupation. One of the figures in the foreground is supposed to represent the great pioneer Daniel Boone.

On the second floor in the east corridor, adjoining the Governor's and the Secretary of State's offices, are panels of feminine figures representing allegorically War, Peace, Art, and Literature. In the South Wing is the Hall of Governors.

In the niches about the second floor rotunda are statues of Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas, Governor John Wood (1860-61), David E. Shanahan and Richard J. Barr.

Mr. Shanahan served 42 years in the General Assembly, and was Speaker of the House five times. Mr. Barr served 48 consecutive years in the State Senate.

High upon the walls of the rotunda on pedestals near the base of the inner dome are heroic bronze casts of eight men prominent in the civil and military history of Illinois. These are: Ninian Edwards, governor by appointment and reappointment during the entire territorial period, and third governor of the State; Shadrach Bond, first governor; Edward Coles, second governor; Sidney Breese, justice of the Supreme Court and U. S. senator; Lyman Trum-



Symbolizing Illinois' welcome to the world, the figure at left stands in the rotunda of the Capitol. The statue commemorates the work of Illinois women at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

bull, U. S. senator; U. S. Grant, Commander of all the Union armies at the close of the Civil War and President of the United States; John A. Logan, Major General of Volunteers during the Civil War and afterwards U. S. senator; and William Ralls Morrison (1825-1909), congressman and soldier.

Still above these statues and just at the base of the inner dome is a series of allegorical and historical plaster casts painted to have the appearance of bronze. One panel may be identified with certainty and this illustrates one of the Lincoln and Douglas debates. The remaining panels represent pioneer life in Illinois, but the identity of most of the figures remains questionable. Early accounts of the Capitol reveal the fact that the panels were not in accord with the author's order.

In the north corridor on the second floor is hung an oil painting of Lincoln and Douglas at an open air debate in Charleston. On the third floor in the south, north, and east alcoves, respectively, can be seen allegorical murals representing Industry, Commerce, and Agriculture.

In the House Chamber hang oil paintings of Lincoln and Douglas, while at the rear of the Speaker's rostrum in both the House and the Senate are paintings of George Washington.

The Centennial Building

THE Centennial Building commemorates the hundredth anniversary of the admission of the State to the Union. The cornerstone was laid October 5, 1918, and the building completed in July 1923 at a cost of \$3,000,000.

The northwest corner of the land on which the building stands is the former site of the home of Ninian Wirt Edwards, son of Gov. Ninian Edwards. Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd were married in his home and Mrs. Lincoln died there in 1882, seventeen years after the President's assassination.

The exterior of the Centennial Building is of limestone. Names of prominent Illinoisans are inscribed in a frieze near the top of the structure on all four sides.

Just inside the two main entrances is Memorial Hall in which the flags of Illinois regiments are on display. The hall is 154 feet long and 41 feet wide. The interior walls are of Mankato stone while the ceiling is decorated in gold leaf. Missouri marble and Mankato stone are used in the floor pattern. In the

Capitol

Reseal Capitol Cornerstone's Mementoes

Sun-Times Bureau

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Mementoes of 98 years ago were revealed Tuesday in the cornerstone of the Capitol, along with a few 1966 items.

Back into the copper and lead box went a flask of whisky presented to Abraham Lincoln. Only items not returned, after the July 26 opening this year, were an 1865 vintage photo of the old Capitol in downtown Springfield and a colored lithograph of the present structure as the architect visualized it.

The cornerstone was opened and the box removed in an effort to locate architectural and structural data to aid in a structural survey of the Capitol. No blueprints or plans were found, but some specifications were in the box plus the architect's drawing.

ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY

CENTENNIAL BUILDING , SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS



Friday, Jan. 28, 66

Dear Elmer:

Thanks for the goodies from the Harpers Ferry country. I was particularly interested in the booklet about Shepherdstown. I am fairly familiar with the town and have seen most of the places listed but I really didn't know what I was looking at. Some of the places out in the country I have never seen and didn't even know they were there.

It is cold, cold, cold, here this morning--1 below zero, the weather boy said--and I imagine you had it quite a bit cooler than that. We have had no snow to speak of, however, and that is to the good.

What do you hear from Phyllis and the other Easterners? We got a long letter at Christmas, but I guess I told you about that.

Clyde is still at home. He came in for three mornings at the first of the year and then had a setback. The current report is that he is much improved, but he has to stay in bed this week, and at home for the next two weeks. The virus seems to be traveling around in his anatomy and the doc wants to get entirely rid of it lest it cause some real damage.

The takers down are going to begin work on the old state capitol on Feb. 7 or so. Jim gave Margaret and Bill Keller and me a guided tour of the place the other day. They have knocked a lot of plaster off the walls to see what is underneath because the plans they have are not entirely accurate. There were innumerable chimney holes for the stove pipe, two of the inside walls were also bearing walls and are tied in with the outside walls by great boulders that go clear through to the outside. Oak hunks about 2"x8" or 10"x about 18" were inserted ~~xxx~~ at intervals for nailers. There were other interesting items that you should see to believe--but I am running out of paper. Thanks again for the historical items. Best wishes to you and Mrs. E.

NEWTON C. FARR

RAYMOND N. DOOLITTLE

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Trustees

CLYDE C. WALTON

State Historian

MARGARET A. FLINT

Assistant State Historian

HOWARD F. RISSLER

Editor

Howard

Cornerstone

Lincoln Gift Whisky Found In Capitol

By Burnell Heinecke

Sun-Times Bureau 7-27-66

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — A flask of whisky that was presented to Abraham Lincoln turned up Tuesday among contents of a box that had been sealed in a cornerstone of the Illinois Capitol in 1868.

Other than the unexpected flask of "Lincoln whisky," the opening of the box proved disappointing.

From Phoenix, Ariz., Lester E. Howlett, 74, came to inspect a flask put in the box by P. L. Howlett, a distiller of spirits 100 years ago.

The flask bore this inscription on a silver wrapping covering its bottom half:

"Made for Abraham Lincoln Sept. 20, 1860, and presented to him as an emblem of his administration. It is pure and will grow better as it grows older."

Thanks to a lead seal over the top, the bottle's contents appeared intact. Another whisky bottle, unmarked but with cork in place, obviously had lost its liquid in the nearly 98-year interment.

The opening had been postponed until State Historian Clyde C. Walton could be available — a rare occurrence with governmental buildings.

Plans were immediately put in motion to photograph the material needed by the architects, as well as the items of historical interest to Walton and those working on restoration of the old Statehouse which served the state from 1840 to 1876.

As soon as possible, the objects removed Tuesday will be sealed again and replaced in a duplicate metal box for restoration into the cornerstone of the Capitol.

Thanks to The Sun-Times



A whisky bottle presented to Abraham Lincoln is examined by Myron Lingle, Grand Master of the Illinois Masons, after it was found in a box enclosed in the Illinois Capitol cornerstone at Springfield. Looking on are Sec. of State Paul Powell (left) and state historian Clyde Walton. (AP)

disclosure on July 18 that the cornerstone had been opened, Howlett, a grandson of a leading Springfield citizen who placed the whisky in the box learned of the opening ceremony and was present for it.

Of value to the restorers of the original Capitol in Springfield, now dismantled and due

for restoration next year, was a hitherto unknown 1867 photograph showing that building, location of trees and shrubs and the fencing around the structure.

For the architects and building engineers studying the structural integrity of the present Capitol, started in 1868

and finished 20 years later, there was only a lithograph in color of the architect's conception of the exterior and a 34-page "General Description of the New State House in Springfield."

Even though the probers hoped for more graphic information, Supt. of Buildings

Thomas J. Owens quickly noted there was contained in the descriptive booklet a description of the type of steel used.

"We'll want to check that out," Owens told architect Harry E. Fernandes of Springfield.

"There's an elaborate description of the ironwork and foundations," Owens said after scanning through the booklet quickly.

Thus the mission seemed justified for Owens and for Fernandes, who heads the structural study for Sec. of State Paul Powell.

Dr. Wayne C. Temple of the State Archives Divisions said discovery of the 1867 photo of the Old Capitol itself justified opening the box.

He explained: "The detail on the cupola, the iron fence around the block and the location of the hand pump on the southwest corner give us detail we lacked before.

"Previous photos available generally were of the period when the building was heavily draped in black at the time of Lincoln's funeral. That would hide a lot of detail on the building itself."

Powell presided at the opening of the battered copper box, 2 feet long and 1 foot wide and deep.

It had been extricated from the cornerstone on July 9 by a crew of workmen—unobserved except by the family of Thomas Patano, sales manager, general advertising, of The Sun-Times and Daily News.

Myron K. Lingle, grand master of the Masons of Illinois, officiated at the extraction of contents just as the grand master mason in 1868 had officiated at its sealing.

Walton commented as the contents were spread out that

it was the first time he had seen photographs of the architect's family included in a cornerstone box. A pocket watch from the Elgin National Watch Co., in a tin but not in a case, also was something new in the way of cornerstone objects, Walton observed.

Most of the contents were typical, however; reports of various state officers, some bonds of the type sold to raise revenue for the Capitol; rules of the Senate and House, proceedings of the 1867 General Assembly, books covering the life of Stephen A. Douglas, Abraham Lincoln, masonry and histories of the United States and Illinois. For packing, newspapers of Illinois and New York were used.

CORNERSTONE CONTENTS FAIL TO SOLVE CAPITOL PUZZLE

The big copper box that was sealed inside the cornerstone of the present Illinois State Capitol on October 5, 1868, was opened on July 26 in a fruitless effort to find a copy of the original drawings for the building.

Secretary of State Paul Powell and his staff wanted the plans to aid a structural survey of the Capitol. A newspaper story written at the time the cornerstone was laid indicated that the drawings were among its contents.

Assisting the secretary of state at the opening were Myron K. Lingle, grand master of the Illinois Masonic order, and State Historian Clyde C. Walton.

Although they failed to find the sought-after papers the 12x12x24-inch box yielded some interesting and historic materials. The contents were catalogued, the papers that were not available in the State Historical Library were duplicated, and the entire collection was sealed in a new box and returned to its former resting place.

The catalog numbered ninety-six items, varying in size from a ticket to the 1868 state fair to several volumes of more than 500 pages each. All were in good condition. While the building plans were missing the box did have a 34-page pamphlet titled *Description and Specifications for the Illinois State House, as per Design Presented by J. C. Cochrane, Architect* which Powell said would be helpful in his survey.

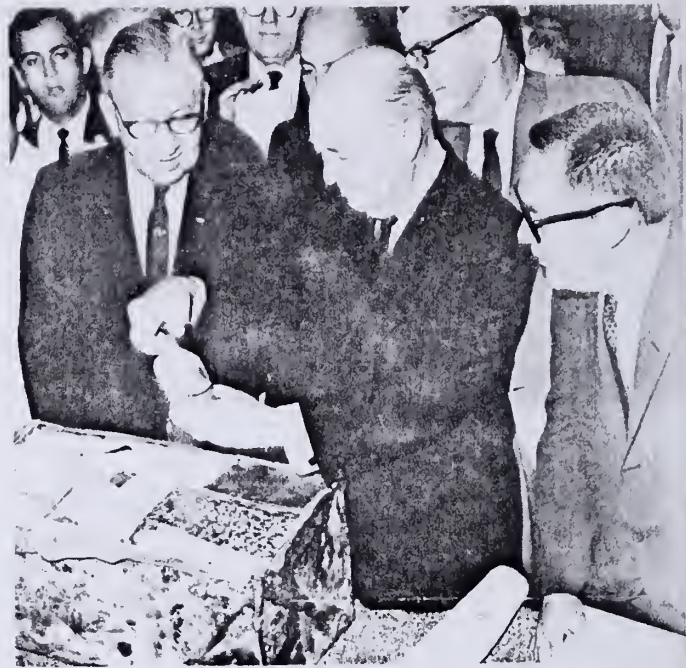
The article which seemed to attract the most attention was a full whiskey flask the bottom half of which was encased in a sterling silver plate bearing the inscription "This Whiskey was made for Abraham Lincoln/Sept 20th 1860 and presented to him as an Emblem of his Administration, it is Pure, & will grow/Better, as it grows older./P. L. Howlett." The top half was covered with leather and the cap bore the inscription "W. T. Fry & Co./New York./ 'Top warranted not to leak or come off.'" A second bottle of blown brown glass was corked but empty and had no identifying label.

Another interesting item was a hitherto unknown photograph of the Old State Capitol which was probably made at the time of the cornerstone laying. Also there was a large lithograph of the "New State House" made in 1867 by the Chicago Lithographing Company.

Among the books were *The Life of Abraham Lincoln*, by J. G. Holland (Springfield, Mass., 1866) and *The Life of Stephen A. Douglas*, by James W. Sheahan (New York, 1860). The other books included nearly a dozen volumes of Illinois laws and reports of a number of state agencies. There were more than two dozen newspapers from Chicago, New York, and Springfield and a copy of the *Sandwich (Illinois) Gazette* for October 3, 1868. Several of the papers were represented by duplicate copies.

The miscellaneous papers included pamphlets, periodicals, and books of the Masonic order (which had charge of the cornerstone laying), two \$1,000 state bonds, a message to the General Assembly by Governor Richard J. Oglesby, lists of the Supreme Court justices and members of the State Agricultural Society, a blank State House voucher, and a map of the state's electoral districts.

Twelve coins—one, two, and five-cent pieces—were found in the cornerstone cavity outside the box itself, and inside the box there was a 7-inch metal tube, 1 1/8 inches in diameter, containing coins, which was soldered shut and was not opened.



CAPITOL CORNERSTONE BOX and the bottle it contained being inspected by Secretary of State Paul Powell, left, Grand Master Myron K. Lingle, and State Historian Clyde C. Walton.



THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, the *Abraham Lincoln Association* was chartered under the laws of the State of Illinois on August 1, 1908, and

WHEREAS, the charter issued by the Secretary of State of Illinois, as amended, presently provides, in part, that the purpose of said Association is to preserve and make more readily accessible the landmarks associated with the life of Abraham Lincoln and actively to encourage, promote and aid the collection and dissemination of authentic information regarding all phases of his life and career; and

WHEREAS, the Association, for more than 60 years, has accomplished such purpose in numerous ways, including the publication of books, presentation of programs, placing of historical markers throughout the State, and, most recently, obtaining approximately \$300,000.00 from the people of the State of Illinois to assist with restoration of the Old State Capitol Building in Springfield, Illinois, and

WHEREAS, the Association has expended such gifts from the people of the State of Illinois to purchase and place in said Old State Capitol Building approximately 3,000 historic furnishings of all kinds and descriptions which were either a part of or similar to the furnishings in the Capitol at the time of Abraham Lincoln, and

WHEREAS, the Association now desires that such furnishings be maintained for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations of persons throughout the world who revere Abraham Lincoln,

NOW, THEREFORE, KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that the Abraham Lincoln Association, an Illinois not for profit corporation, with its offices in the City of Springfield, County of Sangamon and State of Illinois, has given, conveyed, assigned, transferred and delivered, and by these presents does give, convey, assign, transfer and deliver unto the State of Illinois, all of the historic furnishings which said Association has or will purchase or otherwise acquire, which have been or will be placed at appropriate locations throughout the restored Old State Capitol Building in Springfield, Illinois, to have and to hold said furnishings unto the State of Illinois and its assigns, to and for its own proper use and behoof, forever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the *Abraham Lincoln Association*, by its President and Secretary thereunto duly authorized, has executed these presents the Twenty-third day of September, in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-nine.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

BY

Marshall D. Fittinger

President

ATTEST:



William K. Alderfer

Secretary

FACE LIFT DUE FOR LINCOLN'S STATE HOUSE

[Continued from first page]

Lincoln wrote his First Inaugural address.

The site at 103 S. 5th st. of Joshua F. Speed's store, where Lincoln lived from 1837 to 1841.

Next door, at 105, the site of

Old State House Waits Face Lift

Shrine of Lincoln to Gain Luster

BY ROBERT HOWARD
[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

Springfield, Ill., Oct. 2 — The old state house on the downtown square will be missing for a while from Springfield's galaxy of tourist attractions recalling Abraham Lincoln.

The pre-Civil war building, from which Sangamon county officials recently moved to a new courthouse, will be taken apart, stone by stone. Then it will be restored as it was when Lincoln moved thru its halls as a legislator, anti-slavery leader, and President-elect. There his final funeral service was held 100 years ago.

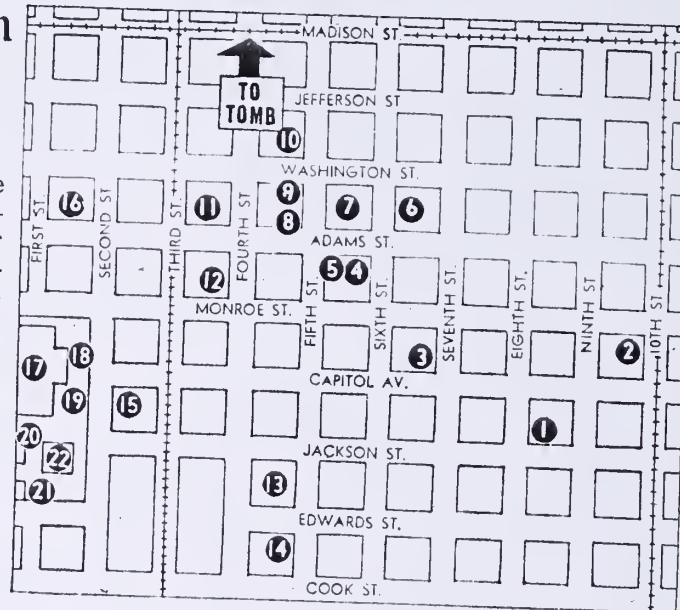
Floor to Be Removed

The restoration involves removal of the existing first floor. The work will be complete when the state historical library moves its priceless collections to underground vaults there. Then the old building will be ready for centuries of visitors.

During the years that Sangamon county officials occupied it, the old state house received only passing glances from most tourists.

Springfield's major tourist attractions have been Lincoln's tomb and his home — the only home he ever owned.

The tomb is in Oak Ridge cemetery, about 2 miles north of the square. A 117-foot spire guides tourists to the monument under which are buried Abraham and Mary Lincoln



Places of interest in downtown Springfield located on map:

- 1—Lincoln's home.
- 2—Great Western depot.
- 3—First Presbyterian church.
- 4—Lincoln-Logan office.
- 5—Smith store.
- 6—Marine bank.
- 7—Old State House square.
- 8—Herndon law office.
- 9—Speed store.
- 10—Stuart law office.
- 11—Globe tavern.
- 12—Site of Second Presbyterian church.
- 13—Governor's mansion.
- 14—Vachel Lindsay home.
- 15—Supreme court building.
- 16—Armory.
- 17—State Capitol.
- 18—Stephen A. Douglas statue.
- 19—O'Connor statue of Lincoln.
- 20—Archives building.
- 21—State museum.
- 22—Centennial building.

and three of their four children. Each year a million persons visit the tomb, which is open from 9 a. m. to 6 p. m. during daylight saving time and until 5 p. m. the rest of the year.

The tomb and the home are owned and maintained by the state of Illinois. Admission is free.

His Home Restored

The Lincoln home at 430 S. 8th st. can be part of a walking tour of downtown Springfield. The house and the furnishings have been faithfully restored as they were when he lived there. The Lincolns moved into the house in 1844. A new addition at the rear of the lot, a reproduction of the Lincoln stable and carriage house, provides restroom facilities for visitors.

For the safety of tourists, ve-

hicle traffic has been barred from the street intersection on which the house stands. Landscaping and gas street lights help to provide an attractive appearance. Nearby souvenir shops are a 20th century distraction.

The only commercially operated exhibit related to Lincoln is the old Great Western station, four blocks from the home. It was there that Lincoln made his farewell speech as he took a special train to Washington — and later martyrdom — on March 11, 1861. The Lincoln depot, at 10th and Monroe streets, is privately owned and includes a railroad museum as well as another memorial to the President. The admission is 50 cents for adults.

Downtown Springfield also

offers these attractions for visitors:

The First Presbyterian church, 7th street and Capitol avenue, contains the family pew for which Lincoln paid rent when the congregation met at 302 E. Washington st.

The Springfield Marine bank, 114 S. 6th st., displays a ledger showing that Lincoln opened an account March 1, 1853.

Law Office Recalled

The building in which Lincoln and Stephen T. Logan had a third-floor law office is across from the square, on the southwest corner of 6th and Adams streets.

The building in which C. M. Smith, Mary Lincoln's brother-in-law, operated a store stands nearby at 528 E. Adams. There

[Continued on page 2, col. 5]



LINCOLN LANDMARK: The old Illinois State Capitol in Springfield as it appeared in 1858, the year that Abraham Lincoln, speaking there, made his "house divided" speech.

A LINCOLN SHRINE BEGUN IN ILLINOIS

Old State Capitol Being Torn
Down—It Will Rise Again
Like Building of 1858

By **AUSTIN C. WEHRWEIN**
Special to The New York Times

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., March 5
—Wreckers today completed dismantling the dome on a building Abraham Lincoln made immortal.

Stone by stone, the 129-year-old state capitol where Lincoln made his 1858 "house divided" speech is being taken apart, to rise again as it appeared then.

Earl W. Henderson, the Springfield architect who is supervising the \$5.2-million project, said the process was like peeling an orange and throwing away the pulp.

The building is being completely remodeled inside because it suffered complete changes after Lincoln's time. For practical purposes only the 40-inch-thick walls remain as in Lincoln's day.

When the state government was moved to a new building in 1876, the old capitol became a Hamilton County court-

State Gets It Back

The old capitol got a new lease on life last year when a new courthouse was built and the state reacquired the old capitol.

It was in this building that Lincoln first took public issue with Stephen A. Douglas. The house-divided speech on June 16, 1858, was a prelude to the Lincoln-Douglas debates.

Lincoln, who had become a Republican in 1856, believed that Congress should exclude slavery from the territories, and the Illinois state Republican convention on June 16 endorsed him for the Senate. That evening he pronounced the words:

"A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half-slave and half-free."

Douglas went back to the Senate, but this speech in the House of Representatives drew Lincoln the national attention that grew and later propelled him into the White House.

The tan-colored structure, in "Greek-Roman" style, is situated in a square in the center of the business district.

In the dismantling project, each of the 3,000 outside stones is being marked and catalogued in a code system keyed to a drawing showing each stone.

Private Funds Pledged

Handled like eggs, the 400-pound dolomite blocks are being stored under guard at the state fairgrounds.

The project, towards which \$300,000 has been pledged by private citizens, is expected to be finished in 1968, the state's 150th anniversary.

Mr. Henderson has spent three years in architectural detective work to make the restoration as authentic as possible.

"We had to start thinking 'contemporary 1858-ish,'" Mr. Henderson, a partner in Ferr and Henderson, said. This architectural firm has prepared 200 drawings and diagrams to substitute for the plan of John F. Rague, the original architect. His plans have been lost.

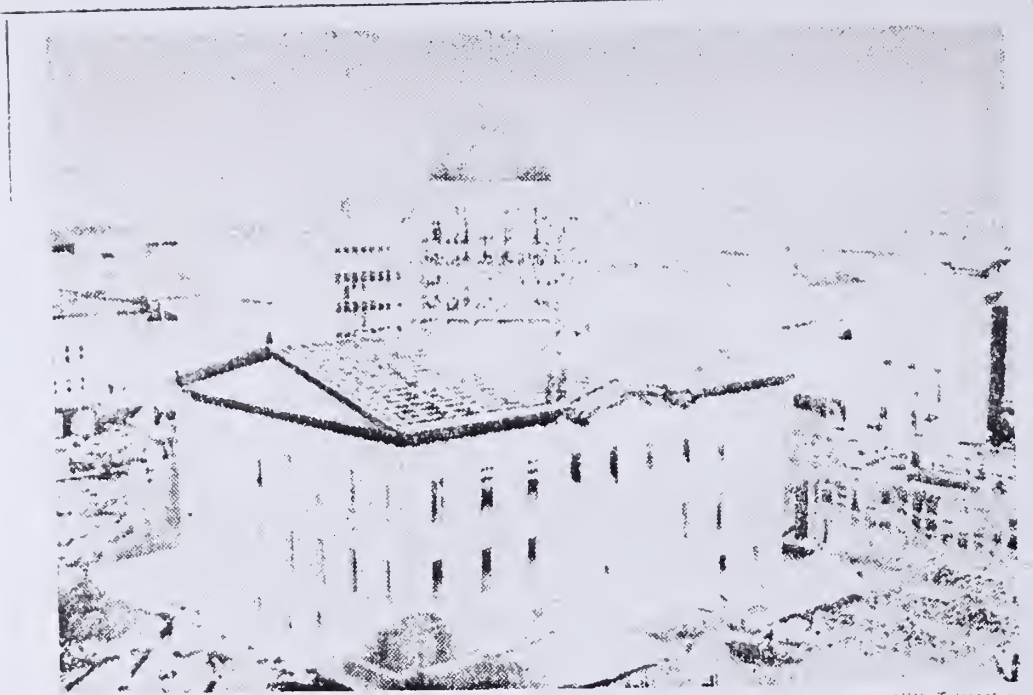
When completed, the restored building is expected to attract upwards of one million tourists a year.

The 115,000-volume state historical library, along with its rich collection of Lincolniana, will occupy three floors beneath the reconstructed building.

Around the underground library will be a two-level, underground 400-car parking garage. There is talk of closing two streets to create a mall.

Clyde C. Walton, the state historian, is planning displays and exhibits of such treasures as one of the five extant manuscripts in Lincoln's handwriting of the Gettysburg Address.

"The exhibit will tell the Lincoln story and create an emotional experience," he promised. "We hope visitors will go out with little chills going up their spines as well as knowing a little more about Lincoln."



(UPI Telephoto)

The old state capitol in Springfield, which is being restored.

Abe Would Recognize Capitol

BY ROBERT HOWARD
Feb. 11 - 7C3
(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 10 — Abraham Lincoln would recognize the exterior of the historic old state capital which is being restored to its original architecture in Springfield's downtown square.

Scaffolding reaches to a squatty dome of unribbed black metal shaped like half an egg shell. The cupola columns are longer, in correct Corinthian proportions. That is the way Springfield's first statehouse looked when Lincoln practiced law and made political speeches in it.

Lowered 11 feet, the sandstone building now has two stories, instead of three. And the only entrances are under the porticos on the north and south sides.

The walls, with each stone in its original position, rise above contractor's equipment in an excavation which in another year will be underground parking space for 465 cars.

The restoration work, proceeding on schedule, started with the dismantling of the entire building. It will erase changes made in 1900 when Sangamon county used it as its courthouse and in an expansion program removed the dome and roof, gutted the interior, and jacked up the walls so that a new first floor could be inserted.

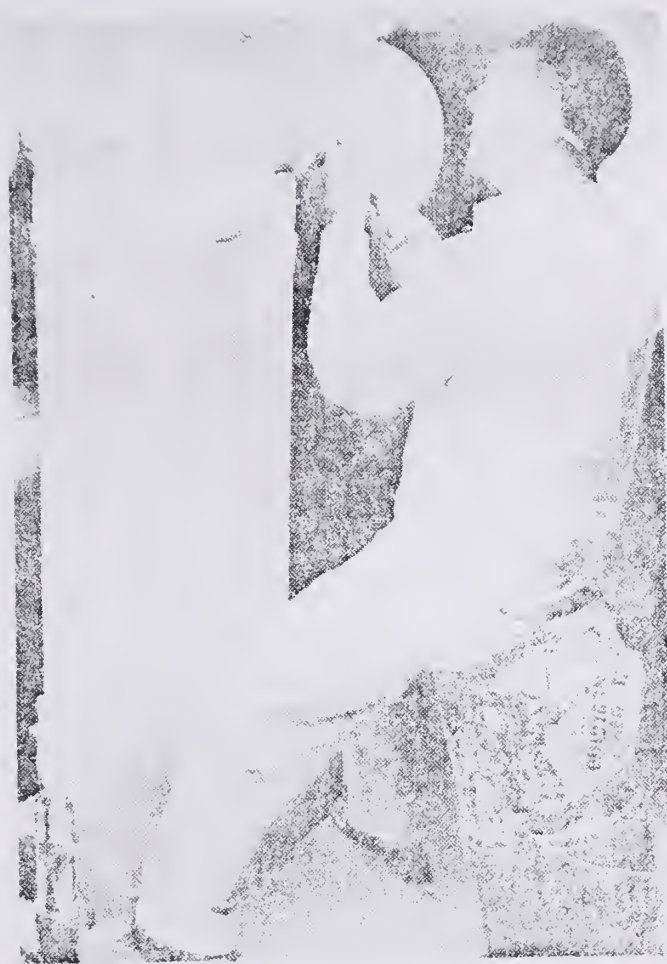
The county made interior, dome, roof, and entrance changes which are being erased by the state so that the old capitol can be permanently preserved as it was when Lin-

coln, Stephen A. Douglas, and Ulysses S. Grant played historic roles within its walls.

Dedication is scheduled for Aug. 25 with ceremonies in the restored House of Representatives chamber, rotunda, and governor's office. The work has been rushed because Gov. Kerner, who Wednesday gave up thought of running for a third term, had planned to use the old capitol as a backdrop for 1963 campaigning.

The new structure will be fireproof and the foundation is designed to last for centuries. Three stories deep, it will house the state historical library in the future.

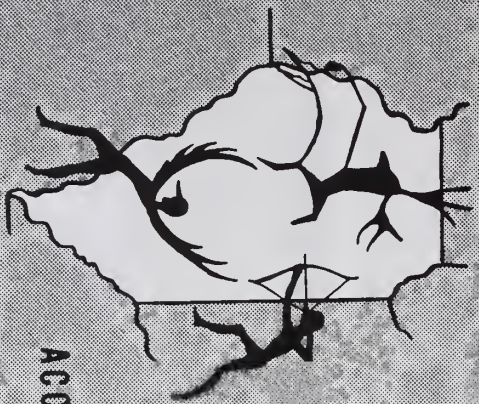
The underground garage will accommodate tourists. Lincoln's home and tomb, the other major shrines here, are away from the business district.



Restoring the Old State Capitol

Otto E. Flala, an ornamental plasterer, sculpts the cap of one of the many columns that decorate the inside of the Old State Capitol in Springfield. The building, dismantled in 1966, is being restored in a \$7,330,000 project. Dedication of the building, which will serve as a shrine to Abraham Lincoln, is scheduled for Dec. 3, the final day of the Illinois Sesquicentennial Year celebration. (UPI)

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ACCOUNTS OF THE HISTORY, SCIENCE AND PEOPLE OF THE GREAT MIDWEST

VOLUME 7

MAY — JUNE — 1969

NUMBER 3





Dispatch

from the Illinois State Historical Society

SERIES 3, NO. 9

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

DECEMBER, 1969

Washington and Lafayette Are Back; Old Capitol Is Open

Two giant-size paintings—of George Washington and General Lafayette—that were a part of the original furnishings when the Old State Capitol in Springfield was built more than 125 years ago, have been returned to their places in the reconstructed building, which is now open to the public.

The paintings are the two largest of the nine articles that are known to have been in the building when it was the State Capitol and that have now been returned there.

In recent years the paintings have hung in the reference room of the State Archives, which is under the jurisdiction of Secretary of State Paul Powell. He released them on permanent loan to the State Historical Library in a brief ceremony during a press conference in the Old Capitol on November 13. Governor Richard B. Ogilvie received the paintings on behalf of the Library.

These paintings were executed by James W. Berry of Vandalia, who copied them from works that hang on either side of the speaker's rostrum in the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. The original of the Washington portrait was by John Vanderlyn of New York and that of Lafayette was by Ary Scheffer, a French artist. Berry dated his copies "1840." The Washington painting (with its frame) measures 6 feet 3½ inches wide by 8 feet 11½ inches high. It has been installed above the speaker's rostrum in the hall of representatives where it was in the Old Capitol. The Lafayette portrait, in the senate chamber, measures 6 feet 7⅞ inches wide by 8 feet 8 inches tall.

The other seven articles of furniture that were used in the original Capitol and are now in the reconstructed building are a tall walnut desk in the treasurer's office, a walnut kneehole desk in the auditor's office, a senate desk, a round-backed spindle chair in the governor's reception room, two wooden-based inkwells in the senate chamber, and a flat-top walnut kneehole desk now in the state library room.

Altogether, the reconstructed building contains approximately 3,000 articles of furnishings. Most of these were purchased with a fund of about \$300,000 raised by private subscription by the Abraham Lincoln Association. But a notable collection of furniture, art, and memorabilia associated with Abraham Lincoln was supplied by the Illinois State Historical Library. These include six pieces



Governor Richard B. Ogilvie, left, accepts the Washington and Lafayette paintings for the Historical Library from Secretary of State Paul Powell. They are at the speaker's rostrum in the representatives' hall in the Old Capitol; behind them is the Washington painting (pictured at right).

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The art works from the Historical Library include two marble sculptures by Leonard W. Volk: a life-size statue of Stephen A. Douglas, now in the second-floor lobby, and a bust of David Davis, in the first-floor lobby. (Volk is best known for his bust of Lincoln and the life mask and casts of the Emancipator's hands.)

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The Historical Library's original copy of the Gettysburg Address and many of its 1,300 manuscripts in Lincoln's handwriting will be put on display after the Library moves to its new quarters below the Old Capitol next year. Numerous articles such as Lincoln's gloves, cane, life mask, and small art objects will become a part of this exhibit.

Some of the 1840-1860 period furnishings supplied by the Abraham Lincoln Association fund were purchased from antique dealers in Illinois, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Texas, and Louisiana. Many of the desks, chairs, tables, benches, and smaller articles were found in New Orleans. More than a hundred whale oil lamps and a number of candlesticks came from Philadelphia.

Many of the furnishings of the type needed were not available anywhere and therefore had to be made to order. Specifications for these articles were drawn up by Lowell E. Anderson and James T. Hickey of the Historical Library staff. Two of the original senate desks were located (one was purchased) as was a two-drawer desk that had been used in the representatives' hall. With the latter as a model, a Peoria firm made eleven two-drawer and twenty-one three-drawer desks for the house chamber. The twenty-seven senate desks and five supreme court desks were copied by a firm in Charlotte, Michigan, from the original that was

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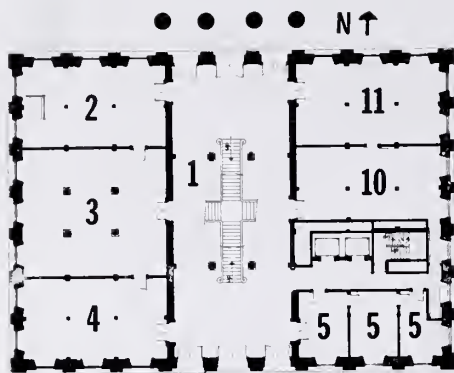
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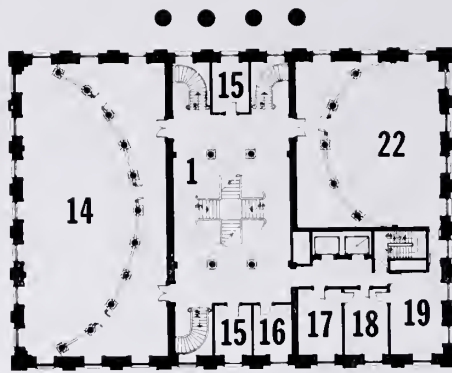
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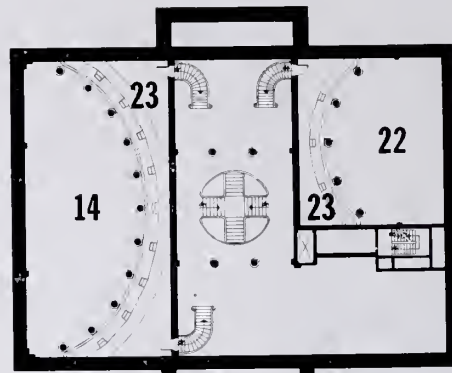
Continued on Page 3



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



BALCONY

Old Capitol Floor Plan

- 1 - Lobby
- 2 - Secretary of State
- 3 - State Library
- 4 - Auditor of Public Accounts
- 5 - State Treasurer (now used as building administration offices)
- 10 - Law Library
- 11 - Supreme Court
- 14 - Representatives' Hall
- 15 - Committee Room
- 16 - Adjutant General
- 17 - Superintendent of Public Instruction
- 18 - Governor's Office
- 19 - Governor's Reception Room
- 22 - Senate Chamber
- 23 - Ladies' Gallery

THE REPRESENTATIVES' HALL has desk space for eighty-three legislators. Each of the two-drawer and three-drawer desks is supplied with a brass candlestick, a whale oil lamp, a pewter inkwell, and quill pen. The benches in the ladies' gallery are pews from a Methodist church in Ellisville (Fulton County).



Dispatch

from the Illinois State Historical Society
William K. Alderfer, Executive Director
Howard F. Rissler, Editor

Published quarterly by the Illinois State Historical Society, Springfield, Illinois 62706. Subscriptions available through membership in the Society: \$5 individual annual, \$25 business, \$50 life (individual only). Other benefits of membership include a subscription to the quarterly *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, invitations to meetings and tours, and books and pamphlets published by the Society.

The news media may use any material which appears in the *Dispatch*, provided credit is given.

Second class postage paid at Springfield, Illinois.

The King and the President

H. M. KING GUSTAV VI ADOLF of Sweden, left, greets Gunnar Benson of Sterling, president of the Illinois State Historical Society, at the opening of a special exhibit of twenty-one paintings by the primitive artist Olov Krans of Bishop Hill, Illinois. The exhibit at Sweden's Museum of National Antiquities in Stockholm began on November 19. Benson, as Illinois' representative, was a guest of the Swedish government. He presented the King a framed facsimile of the State Historical Library's copy of the Gettysburg Address (shown at the lower left) and the Historical Society's distinguished service medallion. Benson was accompanied to Stockholm by Mrs. Benson and John E. Norton of Augustana College, representing the American Scandinavian Foundation.





A CORNER of the governor's reception room in 1860, left, and as it appears today, right. The drawing, which shows a beardless Lincoln greeting visitors in the middle of the room, appeared in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* on November 24, 1860. The two most striking decorative features of artist Henri Lovin's sketch are the huge wooden chain which had been sent to Lincoln by a Wisconsin admirer and the Howard banjo clock on the south window frame. The chain that shows in the photograph was whittled by Charles F. Marlin of Greensburg, Indiana, who used an enlargement of the Leslie's drawing to establish a scale for his work. The clock was located in a Texas shop after circulars had been sent to the country's antique clock dealers.



SENATE CHAMBER, right—the chandelier is lighted with a taper on a pole.



STRAW in the candle boxes keeps the candles from sticking together in warm weather.



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE at the left.



CAST-IRON tray for brimstone matches, an invention of about 1840.

OLD CAPITOL OPENED

Continued from Page 1

purchased. The same company made the chairs for the senate, house, and supreme court, 122 in all. They were patterned after chairs used for more than a century beginning in 1839 in the Old Statehouse in Raleigh, North Carolina. Carpeting for the three rooms was made by a New York manufacturer who followed the weave and pattern of a sample similar to that which was used in the Old Capitol—the sample was discovered under the pulpit of an old church in Havana, Illinois, where it had been undisturbed for more than a century. The drapes for the reconstructed building also had to be specially made.

Distributed throughout the building are two sizes of wood-burning cast-iron stoves—twenty-four in all. There are sixteen of the larger size (known as "six-plate" stoves) and eight of a smaller size (known as "eight-platers"). These stoves were made by a foundry in Galena, Illinois, and are copies of stoves in the Old Statehouse Memorial in Vandalia; the Vandalia stoves were in use when the capital was moved to Springfield. The governor's office contains a third type of stove—one of the well-known Franklin models; this one was made in 1858.

The twenty-seven-candle brass chandelier in the senate chamber was made to order in Holland; and 110 pewter inkwells, distributed throughout the building, were made in England. Ten clock shelves and twenty-five candle boxes were also specially made. Thirteen woodboxes were put together on the site with square-head nails and weathered boards from an old barn (the hickory logs tilling the woodboxes had to be fumigated to kill the wood beetles). Some small items such as the clay pipes and quill pens which are distributed around the desks are still being made commercially. The pipes were imported from Germany and the pens came from Georgia.

In addition to the furnishings that had to be made, several hundred of the antique pieces required repair work before they could be shown.



NORTH STAIRWAY to the second floor, where the Volk statue of Douglas faces a Lincoln campaign banner.

A CORNER of the state library in the Old Capitol.



SOCIETY ANNOUNCES \$2,000 FELLOWSHIP

The Illinois State Historical Society has announced its fourth annual \$2,000 graduate fellowship in Illinois history. The fellowship is for the 1970-1971 academic year. Deadline for applications is March 15, 1970.

Applicants must be enrolled as Ph.D. candidates in an accredited institution, and their subject must be related to Illinois history.

The award recipient will be selected by the Society's eight-member education committee, of which vice-president Neil Lathrop of Freeport is chairman. The winner will be announced by next May 15.

The announcements, along with application forms, were sent to the history departments of 55 Illinois colleges and universities as well as to 85 universities throughout the country which grant Ph.D. degrees in history.

Four Historical Library Staff Members Honored

Four members of the State Historical Library staff have been honored recently for work in their specialized fields.

Lowell E. Anderson, historic sites curator, was named by Governor Ogilvie as one of four special consultants to the sixteen-member Historic Sites Advisory Council of the Department of Conservation. The council is responsible for the state's implementation of the National Historic Preservation Act.

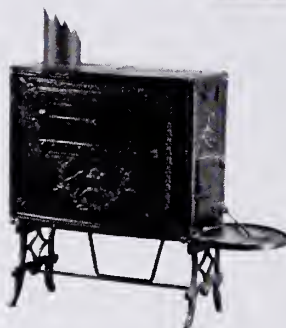
Mrs. Mildred Schulz, reference librarian, was elected to an unprecedented second term as secretary of the Illinois Library Association at its annual meeting in Peoria in October. Librarian Doris Boatman was named secretary of the resources and technical services division of the association.

Mrs. Olive S. Foster, school services director, was reelected to the board of the Illinois Council of Social Studies at that organization's annual meeting in Normal.



UPPER LEVEL of the two-level underground parking area which surrounds the Old Capitol. Entrance to the Historical Library is at the far right.

READING ROOM of the State Historical Library beneath the Old Capitol as it appeared on December 1.



ONE of the sixteen large (six-plate) wood-burning stoves that were made to order and are now distributed throughout the Old Capitol.



ALL of the eighty-three representatives' chairs were made of solid walnut and have horsehair seats and brass ferrules and casters.



Dispatch

LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE FOUNDATION
FT. WAYNE, INDIANA 46302

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QUARTER II, 1970

Midwestest

Magazine of The Chicago Sun-Time



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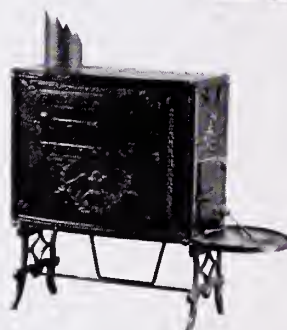
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JANUARY 8, 1970

Midwest

Magazine of The Chicago Sun-Time



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February 8, 1970

Midwest

Magazine of The Chicago Sun-Times

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Director of Design—Paul Brewer
Art Director—Walter Willie

1893-1970: From optimism to apocalypse

"I was born in 1893," writes author and naturalist Joseph Wood Krutch, beginning an essay in which he reviews the events which have shaped his life and our lives. The panorama begins on Page 7.

Shrine to Lincoln, monument to democracy



The ornate Old Statehouse, the Springfield Capitol Building where Abe Lincoln, downstate legislator, gained political maturity, has been carefully restored. The tour through this large piece of prairie history starts on Page 8.

Glorious days at the North Side Riviera

The Edgewater Beach Hotel, at the height of its fame as the mecca for Midwest honeymooners, revelers and celebrities, was an unforgettable center of sumptuousness and, yes, scandal. Return with us, oh you kid, to those days, in the article on Page 20.

Marriage, Edgewater Beach style



In the Edgewater's great and glittering days, it was known as the Honeymoon Hotel of the Midwest, the mecca for a generation of affluent just-marrieds. In an article starting on page 24, a nostalgic husband remembers how the hotel treated one newlywed couple with opulent understanding.

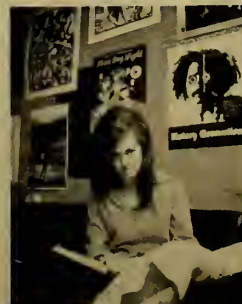
Letters	Page 4
Steels	Page 12
Feiffer	Page 18
Cartoon Bug	Page 22
Compact Furniture	Page 26
Foodmanship	Page 28

Cover photograph of Lincoln's desk by Jack Dykinga

NEXT SUNDAY:

"The new student"—part one

What do these angry, awkward, annoying, affluent college students of today want, anyway? Next week, Midwest begins a series of articles on "The new student," as he is today on several Illinois campuses, from giant University of Illinois downstate to such urban-Chicago schools as De Paul University and YMCA Central Community College. The series begins with a visit to Southern Illinois University.



OLD CAPITOL RECONSTRUCTION

You can almost hear his footsteps

UNDER a green felt cloth, into the surface of a crude walnut table, the initials "A L" are gouged twice. The table, which once stood in Lincoln's Springfield law office, is one of two Lincoln desks in the newly restored Old Statehouse.

The 132-year-old building, the newest Lincoln-related downstate shrine, is expected to lure a million visitors each year to Springfield.

The State of Illinois has spent \$7,000,000 to help these visitors see the tall figure of Abraham Lincoln in the offices and legislative halls of the old, ornate capitol building. Rebuilt stone by stone in the heart of Springfield, the structure recreates the 1840 to 1860 prairie-legislator years of Lincoln.

The carefully-restored building has oak-pegged floors and spiral staircases, candle chandeliers, whale oil lamps, cut-glass fixtures and wine-colored damask drapes in the House of Representatives. (There is also, for the comfort of 1970 tourists, modern air conditioning and electrical systems, in addition to an underground parking garage. The state, in fact, hopes to recover the controversial cost of the restoration from parking revenues.)

Politically, the Old Statehouse is the house that Lincoln built.

Vandalia was the state capitol during Lincoln's early years in the legislature. As leaders of the "Long Nine" from Sangamon County — two senators and seven representatives each more than six feet tall — Lincoln directed the strategy that moved the capital 75 miles north, to Springfield. The lanky Whig legislator rounded up votes by pledging state funds to other counties for improvements such as turnpikes, bridges and harbors. One consequence was that the state went broke — a situation not remedied for nearly a decade.

Later, after tortuous political years that saw Lincoln defeats, victories, then more defeats, there was, finally, the Presidency. As part of Thursday's observances of the 161st birthday anniversary of Lincoln, many Chicagoans will be among the visitors touring the freshly-restored Old Statehouse.

The gleaming building will be the site of deliberations of the Constitutional Convention through May. The 1970 Constitution will be the fourth executed in the House of Representatives' chamber.

Visitors will continue to be admitted as the convention continues in the House chamber and the historical library quarters in the basement.

More than any other structure, the Statehouse is a cornerstone in the Lincoln saga. Lincoln himself, the provincial legislator about to step upon the stage of history, referred to

Continued on Page 10



LEFT: The gleaming, 132-year-old, Greek-classic Old State Capitol after more than three years of reconstruction. The building was dismantled and rebuilt stone by stone to restore it to the shape it was in before it was used as the Sangamon County courthouse. **BELOW:** A statue of Stephen A. Douglas graces the rotunda of the Old Statehouse. It was here that Lincoln gave the House Divided speech that pitted him against Douglas in the senatorial election. **RIGHT:** Lamps line a table in front of an age-warped window in the Secretary of State's office.



LEFT: The New Capitol dome is seen through the 40-foot pillars that form a facade for the old building. Over \$7,000,000 was spent to put the structure back in its original shape. **ABOVE:** Old record books line a dusty shelf. Old records like these offered clues to the original furnishings and decorations of the old building.



LEFT: Cleaning women dust the small desks in the Senate chamber. ABOVE: The House Chamber at dusk: It was here that Lincoln served as floor leader of the Whig party, here in May, 1865, his funeral bier lay in state, here he gave the famed House Divided speech.

Photography by Jack Dykinga

Curator Hickey found that the architect traced each feature from an architectural copy book

his ups and downs in his farewell to Illinois. Leaving for Washington on Feb. 11, 1861, the day before his 52d birthday, to take the Presidential oath of office, he said:

"For more than a quarter of a century I have lived among you . . . All the strange, checkered past seems now to crowd upon my mind. . . ."

Lincoln may have been thinking about his years as a prairie lawyer in the rough little

towns of the still - raw middle west, and also of the tumultuous debates in the Statehouse over the great and terrible issue of slavery.

It was in the Statehouse in 1858 that Lincoln, beginning a political comeback after being defeated for the U.S. Senate — he lost in a vote by the legislature, held in the same building — made an eloquent and prophetic speech. The Illinois state Republican convention met in the Capitol, and they heard Lincoln say that a house divided cannot stand.

After the "House Divided" speech, Lincoln was slated for the Senate to oppose incumbent Stephen A. Douglas, who differed with Lincoln over the extension of slavery into the northwest states and territories.

Douglas, a Democrat, began his campaign with a reply to the House Divided speech on a balcony of Chicago's Tremont House at Dearborn and Lake. Lincoln was present; the next night, he spoke from the balcony in rebuttal. The encounter led to the famous series of Lincoln - Douglas debates.

Once again, Lincoln's career hinged on deliberations in the Statehouse. The legislature returned Douglas to the Senate by a vote of 54 to 46.

Henry C. Whitney, a lawyer and longtime friend, went to Lincoln's law office across the street from the Statehouse. "I never saw a man so depressed," Whitney said later. "I tried to rally his drooping spirits. He was simply steeped in gloom."

But Lincoln was not destined for oblivion. The debates against Douglas had greatly increased his national reputation; between 1858 and 1860 he spoke many times in the populous east, gaining popularity and political allies. When the Republican party met in Chicago in 1860 to nominate a Presidential candidate, Lincoln won on the third ballot.

Immediately the Statehouse, scene of defeat and of victory, became the center of national attention. It was the setting for tribute to the Illinois lawyer who was the bope of the North in a nation threatened with disunion.

In the Capitol building, the governor's suite was turned over to the Presidential candidate. Artists arrived to paint Lincoln's portrait, one group out of a horde of visitors from many states. Tuesday night, Nov. 6, 1860, the telegraph brought the news of Lincoln's election. In the Statehouse, a correspondent wrote that "jubilant men laid down on the floor and rolled over and over."

Four and a half years later, Lincoln returned for the final time, as national martyr. In the House chamber of the Statehouse, where he had spent so many vital years, the body of the assassinated President lay in state. Through a day and a night, 75,000 mourners slowly ascended the walnut staircase to say farewell at the catafalque.

Today, the restored Statehouse is furnished as it was during the years 1840 to 1860. The spirit of Lincoln and his colleagues still lives in the halls and offices.

The House chamber, the room most associated with Lincoln, is an exact reproduction of the chamber in which Lincoln worked. Rep.

Lincoln sat in the second row from the front, second seat from the aisle in the 80-seat chamber. He did not smoke or chew tobacco, so the shared spittoon was allocated to his neighbor. The chamber was elegant for its time, with its whale oil lamps, cut glass, bronze fixtures and other artifacts.

Although the interior of the original building was destroyed by fire in 1890, and despite the fact that no plans existed, original invoices were used to guide selection of furniture for the restored Statehouse. James Hickey, curator of the state's Lincoln collection, has assembled furnishings that closely approximate the original contents.

There is, for instance, a Victorian leather settee that sits in the secretary of state's office. In the auditor's office just inside the high, solid walnut entrance doors is the original 26-hole auditor's pigeonhole desk, one of the 10 original pieces of Statehouse furniture (of 1,500) which still exist.

Also in the auditor's office is a strange, vise-like device that tobacco chowers of that era used; it is a plug cutter for hacking off precise quantities of chewing tobacco.

In the Law Library are Lincoln's law office table with the carved "A L" initials, a chess set, spittoons and 1,500 law books. Springfield lawyers, including Lincoln, didn't invest in law libraries because the Statehouse library was available.

Among other artifacts is an 18 by 10 inch metal box used to hold the entire treasury of the Territory of Illinois prior to 1820.

Curator Hickey found that John F. Hague, original Statehouse architect, traced each classic feature from an architectural copy book. Design elements, for example, were symmetrical; a room with a door on the left had a door on the right — often blocked by a piece of furniture.

The vast first floor hallway through the center of the Statehouse contains a curved, hard-walnut staircase with a landing halfway up. This platform was used for speeches by Lincoln, Douglas, and many other politicians.

It is 158 steps, 113 feet, from the first floor to the cupola; the last 46 steps are by ladder. A Springfield artist climbed up to the flagpole to paint four views of the city which now hang in the building.

The adjutant-general's office is restored as it was when Ulysses S. Grant was a \$2-a-day clerk in the office for three months while waiting for his Civil War commission.

When new, the Statehouse cost \$260,000. It was sold to Sangamon County in 1898 for \$200,000, and the county spent \$202,000 in partially rebuilding it for use as a courthouse. The state paid the county \$975,000 for the property in 1965.

Curator Hickey is aware of criticism of the total \$7,000,000 cost of the restoration project, criticism that has diminished in recent months as the Lincoln memorabilia in the building is appreciated by more and more visitors.

"This building is going to be here," Hickey says. "It will be here when some of the other things we spend money on are not."



A bedroom is tucked under a flight of stairs in the Capitol. The bed was used by representatives who moonlighted as janitors during Lincoln's time.

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

An Independent Newspaper Founded January 1, 1876

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8

Friday, January 16, 1970

Footprints for con con

By making the old Capitol building in Springfield its permanent home, the Illinois Constitutional Convention not only will have quarters of its own but a rich tradition to draw upon in drafting a new state charter. The storied building, which was restored and opened to the public as a museum last year, housed the convention that drew the present constitution a century ago. But it is even more intimately associated with the life and times of Abraham Lincoln.

It served as Lincoln's campaign headquarters in the 1860 presidential campaign, and it was there that his body lay in state before burial five years later. In the minds of most Americans, however, the old Capitol is associated with Lincoln's 1858 speech in which he accepted the Republican nomination to run against Sen. Stephen A. Douglas.

"A house divided against itself cannot stand," Lincoln said. "... I do not expect the house to fall—but I do expect it will cease to be divided." Though he spoke in a different context of time and issues—the North against

the South, slavery, and the gathering clouds of civil war — his words should carry a special message for the con-con delegates as they proceed with their deliberations.

For basically what is wrong with our present constitution is that it has perpetuated a house divided within Illinois. At first it made it possible for Downstate rural interests to frustrate the hopes and aspirations of Cook County, and now—in the wake of population shifts and legislative reapportionment — a rural-suburban coalition in the Legislature focuses its antagonism on Chicago and other urban centers.

Unless the delegates forsake sectional rivalries and produce a constitution that will give Chicago and other cities a far greater degree of home rule than they now have, the divisions will become more bitter as the plight of the cities becomes more desperate. If the house of Illinois is not to fall, it must, as Lincoln said of the nation, cease to be divided.

The delegates can halt the drift that now threatens the house's collapse.

Illinois

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS / VOL. 52 • NO.2



Libraries

february 1970

ARCHIVE



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Illinois Libraries is published by the Illinois State Library, Springfield, Illinois 62706, and is issued monthly except in July and August.

Opinions expressed in signed articles are not necessarily those of the editors or the Illinois State Library.

ILLINOIS LIBRARIES

Vol. 52, No. 2

Springfield, Illinois

February 1970

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Cover design by *Beham-Niimi and Associates*, Chicago, Illinois

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THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY
Springfield, Illinois 62706

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Two Portraits Returned to the Old State House

PAUL POWELL

Secretary of State and State Archivist

ON JULY 7, 1965, Governor Otto Kerner approved an Act of the Illinois Legislature which ordered that "The Department of Conservation is authorized to reconstruct and restore the old State Capitol at Springfield to its appearance when it was the State Capitol. . . ." Years of research and engineering have gone into this historical project to restore the old State House to its original condition when the floors creaked to the footsteps of Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas, Ulysses S. Grant, and other great names in Illinois' past.

But the restoration has not been an easy task. Even photographs showing the exterior of the original structure were not as plentiful as might have been expected. In this matter, it was my pleasure to supply an unknown photograph of the old Capitol taken between the years 1865 and 1868.

While searching to find the original plans or specification book for the present Capitol so that much-needed repairs to the ironwork etc., could be accomplished, my office—in desperation—opened the cornerstone on July 9, 1966. Some days later when the metal box was unsealed in my office, there in the musty container was a magnificent photo (taken by Richard Harry Dawson) of the old State House. Whoever filled that cornerstone on October 5, 1868, did not wish for the old State House to be forgotten even though the

people of Illinois were then constructing a new Capitol.

A copy was immediately made of this photo and presented to the Illinois State Historical Library for its research purposes. So exact was the focus of this ancient photograph that even the downspouts of the cupola were clearly visible. (I might add that we did find the vital specification book, that we did return all the artifacts to the cornerstone, and that repair work is now going steadily forward in the present Capitol on Second Street.)

Original furnishings which once were part of the old State House have been even harder to locate. Less than ten such items have come to light after diligent search by experts. And several of these are lowly inkwells!

Two original appointments from the old State House were discovered in my custody. They are not small objects, such as inkwells, but rather huge oil portraits which measure nearly nine feet in height.

Soon after the newly-constructed Capitol building on Springfield's Public Square was first opened to the legislature back in December of 1840, these paintings were placed there. One is of George Washington and hung over the Speaker's chair in the House of Representatives. The other, of General Lafayette who so aided the Americans in their fight for independence from Great



This photograph of the old State House in Springfield was found in the cornerstone of the present Capitol. It shows the old State House at some date between the years 1865 and 1868.



Governor Richard B. Ogilvie (left) accepts the portrait of George Washington from Secretary of State Paul Powell. This painting by James W. Berry in 1840 was returned to the House Chamber, now fully restored, by the Secretary of State during ceremonies in the old State Capitol on November 13, 1969.



Secretary of State Paul Powell (left) returns a painting of Lafayette to Governor Richard B. Ogilvie on November 13, 1969. This portrait for years hung in the Illinois State Archives. Now it is back in its original position in the restored Senate Chamber of the old State House.

Britain, was displayed in the Senate chamber.

Both portraits were executed by James W. Berry, a self-taught artist of great ability who at that time lived in Vandalia, Illinois. He was the son of Elijah C. Berry, the Auditor of Public Accounts from territorial days until 1831. James himself held various governmental posts, even serving as Adjutant General of Illinois from 1835 until 1839.

James Berry received the commission to paint these portraits of Washington and Lafayette as the result of a Joint Resolution passed by the Illinois State Legislature in 1839. It authorized the Governor, Thomas Carlin, to secure full-length paintings of Generals Washington and Lafayette for exhibit in the State House when it was finished in the new capitol city of Springfield. Both houses of the legislature agreed that the artist must be an American.

Berry journeyed to the Nation's Capitol where he made copies of the Washington and Lafayette portraits hanging there in the House of Representatives. Both paintings had been there for some years and were well-known.

After much careful and accurate work, Berry finished his task and returned to Illinois from Washington, D.C., with his copy paintings. After signing his name to each, he inscribed the date: 1840.

For years they hung in the old Illinois Capitol. But when the state of Illinois completed the present State House on Second Street, the portraits of Washington and Lafayette were transferred there. They were put in what was then the State Library, a room in the west wing of the third floor—now the Legis-

lators' Lounge and the press room. Thus it was that both portraits came under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State who is custodian of Buildings and Grounds as well as State Librarian.

Eventually, the State Library was moved into the new Centennial Building, and the two famous paintings remained in the Capitol. A few thoughtless visitors began to endanger the portraits by shooting paper clips at them. To protect James W. Berry's artistic work of great note, the paintings were eventually taken to the Illinois State Archives building soon after its completion in 1938. Since that time, they have been displayed in the Reference Room where many people have admired them under the watchful eye of the receptionist.

But now, Governor Ogilvie, I am returning them to you—on loan—so that they once more will hang in the old State House as they did originally. It gives me pleasure to know that they will again grace the restored House and Senate chambers—hallowed shrines which will be visited annually by at least a million tourists to this Land of Lincoln.

Of course, as State Archivist, I shall miss their presence in the Archives building where they have been for so long. With sadness, my staff has watched their transfer from there to here, but we realize in our hearts that these priceless works of art belong back in their original locations so that the restoration of the old State House may be as accurate as possible.

(Editor's Note: Secretary of State Paul Powell presented these portraits to Governor Richard B. Ogilvie in the old State House at Springfield on Thursday, November 13, 1969, at 10 A.M.)

Programs of the National Archives

JAMES B. RHOADS

Archivist of the United States

IT IS A REAL PLEASURE TO MEET WITH YOU TODAY to participate in this conference on college and university archives, and to have the opportunity to visit Eastern Michigan University.¹ We in the National Archives and Records Service view these symposia as most useful devices, not only for discussion of common problems in the care and servicing of historical source materials, but also for strengthening and broadening the range of communication between archivists and historians. For we are partners in scholarship and, as such, should take a lively interest in the problems, the requirements, and the objectives of each other.

I should like to discuss with you today some of the new developments, programs, and aspirations of General Services Administration's National Archives and Records Service. As many of you know, we are concerned with a great deal more than just the archival activities carried on in the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C.

Our Office of the Federal Register compiles and publishes a broad range of legal publications, including the daily *Federal Register*, the *Code of Federal Regulations*, the *U. S. Statutes at Large*, the *Public Papers of the Presi-*

dents, and the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*.

Stated very briefly, we are also responsible for a program of assistance to federal agencies in dealing with their current records management programs. In this connection we are responsible for managing a system of 14 Federal Records Centers, scattered throughout the country, that have as their main task the provision of economical housing and service for 9 million cubic feet of federal records that no longer need to be kept in expensive office space, but that must be retained for a period of years before they can be destroyed.

We also administer a rapidly growing system of Presidential Libraries, now consisting of the Hoover, Roosevelt, Truman, and Eisenhower libraries, and shortly to include the John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson libraries.

As you can see, the programs of the National Archives and Records Service are service-oriented. Our services are directed toward both the federal government and the general public. And within the latter category, the group that requires our greatest attention is the scholarly research community.

I should like now to review with you, and I shall concentrate particularly, but not exclusively, on some of the steps we have taken to strengthen our bonds

¹ This paper by Dr. James B. Rhoads was presented at the Archival Symposium held at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan, on April 4, 1968.



THIS BULLETIN IS
BEING SENT TO:

Lincoln Nat'l. Life Foundation
1301 S. Harrison
Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46802

Illini at Key Positions in Capitol Project

By RUTH WEINARD

The forsythia was just beginning to push its yellow shoots against the iron picket fence, and the lawns around Old State Capitol displayed a bright spring green beside the gravel path.

In the morning quiet, the scene was much as it must have been 120 years ago, and it was difficult to realize that, only a few moments past, we had shared a small elevator with a briefcase-carrying gentleman hurrying up from the underground garage.

It was the start of another day in the heart of the Springfield business district whose axis is anchored on the beautiful reconstructed building and the square where we stood.

Rebuilt amidst both criticism and curiosity (the contractors put up bleachers for the sidewalk engineers) the building is an oasis of peace and beauty, waiting to receive visitors to the site of Abraham Lincoln's rise to national political importance.

It also stands as a tribute to the abilities and efforts of many alumni of the University of Illinois whose training can be attributed in part to the foresight of the 16th president when, on July 2, 1862, he signed the Land Grant Act which opened the way for a greatly expanded growth of the nation's universities.

Springfield's newly completed Capitol complex includes not only the restored building — vacated by the legislature in 1876 — but modern quarters for the State Historical Library at an underground level and two decks of spacious and esthetically pleasing parking to serve both tourists and tenants as well.

Across the way — at the southeast corner of the Capitol square (or Palladian Park as

it is more properly called) is the old Lincoln-Herndon law office building erected in 1840 when the Capitol was under construction, and restored in 1970.

Responsible for renovation of the law offices and the federal court building also houses — in the 1840s the only such court in Illinois — are James E. Myers '35, his wife Edith and several associates.

Although displaced by the law office project, Murray S. Hanes, a 1913 architectural engineer, vacated his long-time headquarters at 205½ S. Sixth and took a small office in the Ferguson Building, very happy, he says, "to see the building preserved as a shrine."

The address on South Sixth Street had belonged to the Hanes family since 1894 when his father, also an architect, occupied the suite.

Now retired, Hanes divides his time between his new office, his home in nearby Chatham, and in "roaming around" his familiar city. As a boy he was his father's helper when the elder Mr. Hanes and an associate, S.J. Bullard '78 (a member of the University's Board of Trustees in 1889-1907) accomplished an unusual feat.

The old Capitol had served from its completion in 1853 until it was deemed too small and sold to the county. By 1898 the county was feeling a squeeze and in a decision based principally on its historical significance announced that, rather than abandon the building, a story would be added.

Hanes and Bullard suggested the unique solution — jack up the building and insert a third floor at the ground level, as the structure wasn't strong enough to add a floor at the top.

Earl W. (Wallie) Henderson Jr. '54, M.S. '59, architect for both the Capitol and law

office renovation, relates that to raise the building small wooden hand jacks were spaced every four feet around the structure. "Each workman was in charge of 10 jacks. When a giant gong was struck (which could be heard three miles away), each man would turn his jacks a quarter turn. In this way, they raised the whole building 11 feet in 12 days."

When Ferry and Henderson (of which Donald E. Ferry '56 is the other principal) accepted the state's invitation to take up the project to restore the building they were faced with, among a multitude of perplexities, ridding the building of Hanes' and Bullard's sandwiched story.

The 1900 renovation had also altered walls, room dimensions and openings, until the interior as Lincoln, Stephen Douglas and U.S. Grant had known it was no longer in existence.

Ferry and Henderson finally proposed to preserve the building's exterior by carefully dismantling and numbering the dolomite stones, gutting the interior and rebuilding completely. Complicating their plan was the absence of architectural drawings for the original structure, believed lost in a 1930s fire in the Department of Public Works and Buildings.

(Start Scavenger Hunt)

Acceptance of their proposal by Illinois legislators in 1963 kicked off an engrossing scavenger hunt. Chief researcher for the architects was James T. Hickey, curator of the Lincoln Collection in the Illinois State Historical Library, who was joined in 1966 by a former University faculty member, Lowell Anderson, a specialist in interior design.

Also among those lending assistance was Margaret Flint '31, B.S. '33, who retired Jan. 1 as assistant state historian after 34 years on the Illinois State Historical Library staff.

In the absence of working drawings Ferry and Henderson and associates formed a team to sift through myriad clues and form a running account of the original construction project.

They looked to early newspaper reports and bid advertisements, artists' sketches of statehouse events and also to other work of the Capitol's designer, John F. Rague.

It was presumed Rague's work was influenced by his studies in New York with architect Minard LaFever and the University's Rare Book Room yielded three books generously illustrating the LaFever style.

Among the many trips made by Hickey and Anderson in their search for authenticity was a flight to Harrogate, Tenn., at the suggestion of Wayne Temple '49, A.M. '51, Ph.D. '56, archivist in the state records section of the Illinois State Archives.

Formerly a member of the faculty of Lincoln Memorial University at Harrogate, Temple remembered that among that institution's possessions was a desk from the old Illinois Senate chamber. Hickey and Anderson noted details of its design, and arranged for casts to be made of its legs so they could be reproduced in exact detail.

In state archives Temple was able to locate more than 4,000 references to articles purchased for the Capitol during its long construction period, from 1837 when the cornerstone was laid, until 1853.

Portraits Returned

Two paintings commissioned for the chambers of the old statehouse also were located in the archives building. Large canvases which portray generals LaFayette and Washington, they are the work of a Vandalia artist, Col. James W. Berry, who traveled to Washington to copy the original oils which still hang in the House of Representatives.

Efforts toward faithful reproduction of both the fact and spirit of the mid-1800s brought the researchers to another alumnus, Lewis Glaser '22 in Charlottesville, Va.

An expert in the creation of quill pens, Mr. Glaser has furnished them for the White House, Mount Vernon and Colonial Williamsburg. He also has made many hundreds for the U.S. Supreme Court which has the practice of placing one on the counsel table of each lawyer appearing before the court, to be kept as a memento.

Lewis Glaser finds only the wing feathers of a purebred Emden goose of suitable beauty and strength for the craft in which he long used a knife presented to him by President Dwight Eisenhower. Prior to his White House visit in 1953, Glaser viewed pen making as a hobby. Since then steadily mounting requests have monopolized his time.

Rallying help and financial support for the

Old Capitol project was a rejuvenated Abraham Lincoln Association which raised more than \$300,000 for furnishings in a drive launched in 1964.

Roots of the movement to restore the historic old building may lie in a speech delivered 46 years ago in the then county building by Henry A. Converse, a Springfield attorney.

Speaking before Abraham Lincoln Association members, Converse pleaded for preservation of "The House of the House Divided," taking his title from one of Lincoln's most quoted addresses, delivered in the Old Capitol in 1858.

Made up principally of Springfield area residents, the Abraham Lincoln Association was organized in the early part of the century to plan a Lincoln centenary. After more than 40 years of activity and the publication of nine volumes of Lincoln memorabilia through Rutgers University Press the association had more or less retired in the early 1960s, but kept up its incorporation charter.

Executive secretary of the association from 1924 until 1932 was Illinois author-historian Paul M. Angle, A.M. '24. Angle later was to become librarian of the Illinois State Historical Society in Springfield, then director of the Chicago Historical Society. Retired now, he continues to live in Chicago.

Another who helped keep alive the idea of the Capitol restoration was Judge Benjamin S. DeBoice '12, also now retired.

But it wasn't until 1959 that Sangamon County supervisors agreed to sale of the building and site to the state and it was two more years before the purchase was accomplished.

Working hard for the purchase were the late Sen. George E. Drach, Law '29, and representatives G. William Horsley '32, Allen T. Lucas '40 and George P. Coutrakon, Law '31, all of Springfield, and Orval Hittmeier of Litchfield (father of Michael Hittmeier '63).

It was 1961 when the General Assembly voted \$975,000 for the building and site and Gov. Kerner signed the bill that Aug. 2.

The architects' ideas for Capitol restoration were revealed at a press conference called by the Abraham Lincoln Association in September 1963.

Survey Tests Stone

Challenged that the stone of the original building, quarried where Lake Springfield now lies, would not hold up through the proposed dismantling and rebuilding processes, Ferry and Henderson sent samples of the rock to Urbana for investigations by the Illinois State Geological Survey.

Survey researchers found their composition as strong as when cut 120 years before.

While Ferry and Henderson were concerned with outward appearances, three other Illini firms began to create the highly efficient and structurally significant underpinnings which have since won for them the Honor Award for Engineering Excellence of the Consulting Engineers Council of the United States.

Dovetailing efforts were the Springfield firms of Walter E. Hanson & Co. and Collins & Rice, Inc., and the Urbana firm of Carroll-Henneman & Associates, Inc.

The engineers were lauded by the national engineering organization for several of their

The Hall of Representatives



Gov. Richard Ogilvie displays a plaque which engineering excellence of the Consulting Engineers Council of the United States. Representing the three Illini firms cited are, from left, Jack Casson.



design solutions.

Cited were: the garage roof structured like an inverted umbrella to provide enough earth depth for tree plantings with a minimum of load, plus an attractive interior surface; economy in construction time and cost; library stacks which double as building supports; intricate steel framing adapted to the Greek revival style; ingeniously hidden mechanical and electrical systems which do not intrude on the world of the Franklin stove, whale oil lamps and pens made from the feathers of an Emden goose.

Hollow beams of the Old Capitol ceilings were prepared to house equipment for possible future "light and sound" presentations in which Sen. Horsley has a special interest. Horsley may well feel a kinship with Abe Lincoln in Illinois, having portrayed the president in the Robert Sherwood play through a large number of summers in the outdoor theater of reconstructed New Salem, northwest of the capital city.

The proposed 465-car underground garage won city council endorsement in 1965 with the backing of the then mayor Nelson Howarth '32, Law '34. City and county planning director Bradley B. Taylor '51, B.F.A. '52, also was in on consultations.

With offices in Myers Brothers Store which looks toward the Old Capitol from the western edge of the square, Albert M. Myers Jr. '39 was one of the Springfield businessmen who saw the project — an on-again-off-again proposal for some 47 years — for its benefit to the business community.

Myers and other members of SCATA (the Springfield Central Area Development Association) put forward to Gov. Kerner and Clyde Walton, then Illinois state historian, the efficacy of including underground parking in the reconstruction scheme.

Engineers Are Alumni

Myers, president and general manager of Myers Brothers, Inc., has served both as chairman of the Springfield Building Authority and as SCATA head.

Heading the honored consulting structural engineers is Walter E. Hanson, M.S. '47, founder, senior partner and president of Walter E. Hanson & Co. On the University faculty for six years prior to 1951, he taught structural analysis and design, soil mechanics and foundation engineering, and earned the rank of associate professor.

The author of numerous publications, Hanson is coauthor with faculty members R.B. Peck and T.H. Thornburn '38 of the text "Foundation Engineering."

Illinois members of Walter E. Hanson Co. include Leo J. Dondanville Jr., M.S. '34, partner and vice president primarily responsible for the firm's soil mechanics and foundation engineering work, who also worked with Dr. Peck while a graduate assistant.

All four associate partners are Illinois graduates: Norman K. Brown, M.S. '63, John M. Healy '54, B.S. '60, M.S. '62, Richard W. Miller '60, M.S. '62, all in Springfield; and Eugene R. Wilkinson '61, in the Peoria office of the firm.

Other Illini with Hanson are William C. Etter '64, M.S. '65, Donald D. Oglesby '63, M.S. '65, Douglas J. Seagren '67, M.S. '68, and Scott D. Fort '69, who is with Wilkinson in Peoria.

Both Wilkinson and Seagren are recipients of the Ira O. Baker prize awarded annually to the two top-ranking seniors in civil engineering and Hanson was cited as the most effective teacher in civil engineering when he was on the campus.

Currently Hanson serves as a director and

ch notes bestowal of the honor award for
neers Council on the Old Capitol complex.
om left, Ralph J. Henneman, Dean Collins



Architects Donald Ferry, left, and Wallie Henderson and the south facade of the old Illinois statehouse.

vice president of the Civil Engineering Alumni Association. He is a past president of the Illinois Engineering Council and served on the Illinois Commission of Higher Education in 1956-60.

Principals in the all-Illini firm of Collins and Rice, Inc., consulting engineers, are R. Dean Collins '49, M.S. '51, and Marcus J. Rice '49. Associates are Robert E. Gates '56 and Russell W. Martin '61 (who lettered in baseball and football at Illinois); Fred J. Stone Jr. '60 is the senior engineer and Anwar Yusuf '69 is the newest member of the firm.

Collins and Rice have specialized in bridge and structural work and do some general engineering. Earlier they have worked with University scientists planning the Vermilion River Observatory near Danville and the Douglas County Observatory at Oakland.

J. Raymond Carroll '43, M.S. '48, is president and Ralph J. Henneman '49 vice president of the mechanical and electrical engineering consulting firm of Carroll-Henneman & Associates, Inc., of Urbana which has a branch office in Springfield.

Also Illini in the firm are Charles Wilkin '66, William Thomas '70, Richard Fenske '70, Lance Domke '69, and L. David Newhouse '58. David Harsbarger '62, with the firm during the project, recently has joined Architectural & Mechanical Systems, Inc., in Urbana.

Last month Carroll was elected to his second term as national director of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers, of which he is a past president.

From 1947 until 1961 he was on the University's mechanical engineering faculty, specializing in heat power, heating,

air conditioning and refrigeration. Since entering private business he has continued to serve the University as a visiting lecturer in the departments of mechanical engineering and architecture.

Electrical engineer with the University's Physical Plant Department in 1950-57 and the architect's office in 1957-60, Ralph J. Henneman has been associated with Carroll since 1961. He also serves the University as a visiting lecturer and is a past president of the Champaign County chapter, Illinois Society of Professional Engineers.

When construction began on the Old State Capitol complex August P. Wisnosky Jr. '63 took the part of a modern Rague, overseeing architectural work on the site. As Ferry & Henderson partner in charge of construction he kept an eye on both the restoration and the library and parking facilities.

Wisnosky now is a principal of a new Springfield architectural and planning firm with James M. Graham '61 and Paul W. O'Shea '61 as associates.

Spencer Designs Gardens

Designing the gardens in the manner of the 1860s was David P. Spencer '56, who heads the Springfield firm of Spencer and Spencer, nurserymen and landscape contractors. Studying enlargements of photographs taken in May 1865 when the Capitol was draped in mourning for President Lincoln — his body resting on a catafalque in the Hall of Representatives — Spencer was able to determine a general plan of the gardens at that time.

It seemed evident to him that small elms appeared about the lawns and he included them in his design, as well as the forsythia

and other shrubs and flowers which he discovered in writings were favorites of the period.

In surviving records the researchers had found the legislature authorized a sum of about \$50,000 to be spent on grounds — a fabulous amount for the time — but, Spencer adds, he later found "that about \$46,000 of that went to purchase the fence."

In addition to his efforts faithfully to reproduce the atmosphere of gardens in a prairie city, Spencer had to adapt to peculiar physical problems. He had to keep in mind the temperature of the soil, heated by the garages below. There also were "delicate" drainage problems and, he concedes, the gardens require good maintenance.

Enthusiastic despite such problems, Spencer feels the Capitol project "tremendously successful."

Fulfilling hopes that the Old Capitol would be a living memorial to Lincoln and other leaders of frontier Illinois, its doors were opened shortly after completion to the state's Constitutional Convention.

Last week Springfieldians and tourists mingled at an open-air art show on the Old Capitol mall.

Meanwhile, southwest of the old statehouse men are at work on restoration of the governor's mansion, and helping to recover its 1855 dignity and beauty is engineer Ralph C. Hahn '51, M.S. '52, who also was involved in the law office renovation.

A member of the University's Board of Trustees, Hahn is one more whose University experience is returning highly visible dividends to his community and state.

Lincoln Shrine Restored

THE MOST HISTORIC BUILDING WEST OF ALLEGHENY MOUNTAINS OPENED TO THE PUBLIC NOVEMBER 15, 1969

The Old State Capitol which stood in the center of the Springfield square bounded by Adams, Fifth, Washington, and Sixth Streets was practically a second home to Abraham Lincoln. It was a part of many important incidents in his life and other significant historical associations as well. It was considered a perfect example of Greek Revival architecture and was called "the most historic building west of the Allegheny Mountains."

Abraham Lincoln was a leader of a group of Sangamon County legislators known as the "Long Nine" (Their total height was fifty-four feet) who influenced the General Assembly to pass a bill on February 28, 1837 to move the state capital from Vandalia to Springfield.

1837 - The cornerstone of the State's fifth Capitol was laid at Springfield on July 5, 1837.

1853 - The building was completed after many delays at a total cost of \$260,000, double its original estimate.

1860 - When the state offices were moved out in January 1876, the old Capitol became the Sangamon County Court house.

1896 - The County had outgrown its quarters and supervisors feared the roof and cupola were fire hazards. A third story was added by lifting the entire building and inserting a new first floor. The cost of raising the building was \$27,500 and the entire cost of remodeling was about \$175,000.

1961 - Legislature passed a bill to purchase the old building for a shrine. The appropriation included \$975,000 for the purchase and \$40,000 for engineering studies for

the restoration. The title was transferred June 29, 1962. The county rented the Old Capitol from the state until the new County Building was completed in 1965.

1963 - February 12, Ferry and Henderson architects were chosen to undertake a feasibility study as to the proper restoration of the old building. They recommended that the structure should be dismantled and reconstructed on the same site and in the original design of the building as it existed in 1858, when Abraham

Lincoln delivered his famous "House Divided Speech."

1967 - Construction began. By August 1968, most of the exterior of the building was completed and the steps were laid. Although the interior of the building was not completed the dedication date was set for December.

1968 - December 3, the Old State Capitol Building was rededicated on the 150th anniversary of the state.



Old State House as it appeared on the evening of June 16, 1858, when Senatorial candidate Abraham Lincoln, Springfield's famous lawyer, made his now-famous "House Divided" speech; and because of this foresight, a predicted thirty million people will have been ushered through the restored building by the time the 21st Century becomes a reality - an event we used to call distant but which is now only 31 years away. After visiting the restored State House, these thirty million people will have a closer sense of history and a closer understanding and appreciation of the stock from whence they came.

The restoration is entirely completed and the Old Capitol has the two-story exterior and interior ap-

pearance that was familiar to Lincoln. Beneath it, however, Ferry and Henderson, Springfield architects who designed the rebuilding project, have provided space for the Illinois State Historical Library and under the surrounding grounds is a parking area to accommodate visitors.

Mayor Howarth said if the children of the 21st Century truly are to enjoy life and its meanings, it is as important they understand, appreciate, and demand the basic freedoms of democracy developed for them by their 19th and 20th Century ancestors. The existence of the restored Old State Capitol will help perpetuate this interest; and, in so doing, it will help perpetuate democracy in these United States of America.

Land of Lincoln Bank

1155 NO. NINTH

MEMBER F.D.I.C.

528-9611

**The Bank That
Goes A Step
Further For You**

Dispatch

from the Illinois State Historical Society

SERIES 3, No. 18

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

AUGUST, 1971

Library Takes Over Old Capitol Complex

The newest, largest, and most expensive historic site in Illinois has a new landlord. Springfield's Old State Capitol, its surrounding grounds and adjoining two-level underground parking garage were transferred on July 1 from the Department of Conservation to the Illinois State Historical Library.

Authority for the transfer was contained in House Bill 678 enacted by the 1971 General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Richard B. Ogilvie on June 29.*

Quarters of the Historical Library were already beneath the Old Capitol and the effect of the legislation was to consolidate administration of the complex under one agency. Before July 1 the Department of Conservation administered those areas not directly related to the Historical Library.

Library personnel researched and supervised reconstruction of the historic portion of the \$8 million project. The new Illinois constitution, which also became effective on July 1, was created by the state's sixth constitutional convention meeting last year in the Old Capitol's Hall of Representatives and in rooms below ground now occupied by the Historical Library.

Dramatic gains in the 82-year-old Library's staff and budget accompanied the transfer of the Old Capitol complex. Literally overnight Library personnel increased by 148 percent, from 33 to 82, and the annual appropriation was raised from \$611,400 to \$1,152,100 — over 88 percent.

By far the largest budget items both before and after the change were salaries and related employee benefits. Formerly constituting 62 percent, they now account for slightly over 66 percent of the total Library budget.

Although the Old Capitol complex includes the parking garage the Historical Library is not in the parking lot business. Operation of the garage is leased to Downtown Parking, Inc., an affiliate of National Garages, Inc. Revenues from the 450 parking spaces are collected by the garage operators and, under the lease arrangement, the state's share is deposited in the general fund. The legis-



NEW FLAG FOR OLD CAPITOL—Daniel Hartley of the Historical Library staff is assisted by Old Capitol guides, Mrs. Ruth Taylor, left, and Mrs. Patricia Hewitt, in raising the new 33-star flag which is 20 by 12½ feet in size. (There were 33 states in the Union at the time Abraham Lincoln left Springfield for Washington to become President.)

lature makes an annual appropriation from the general fund to retire the bonds that were issued by the Illinois Building Authority, the agency that funded construction of the Old State Capitol.

Two features of the Old Capitol complex (yet not a part of it) are the malls or plazas on the streets at the north and south sides of the Old Capitol square. The Washington and Adams street plazas between Fifth and Sixth streets were constructed with funds raised by special assessments of downtown property owners. The plazas enhance the Old Capitol's function as a social, cultural, and political focal point of the Springfield community. Operation and maintenance of the plazas are coordinated by the Springfield Central Area Development Association in cooperation with various city agencies and

During the summer months, the plazas provide a place for outdoor relaxation for visitors to the Old Capitol. And the number of visitors continues to grow: 281,935 for the year ending June 30, 1971. The building was opened November 15, 1969 and the busiest season for both 1970 and 1971 was the months of April and May. Hundreds of busloads of school children on escorted tours of the capital city arrive each spring. The week of May 17 this year saw the greatest number of visitors to the Old Capitol: 12,816 — the record for a single day was set on April 24, 1970, a total of 2,679. But only 35 braved the wintry elements to see the historic halls on January 3, 1970.

A staff of 18 regular and three temporary (summer season) guides assist visitors at the Old Capitol, which is open seven days a week except for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. In addition to the guides, there is a security force of six guards, at least one of whom is on duty 24 hours a day. Eighteen engineering and maintenance personnel complete the roster of employees new to the Historical Library rolls. The latter are supervised by Henry Midden, Jr., who is filling the post of building and grounds superintendent temporarily until a permanent superintendent is employed. Midden regularly serves as the building's chief electrician.

A moderate reorganization of the Historical Library staff was required by the Old Capitol transfer.

William E. Keller, who joined the Library staff as a field services representative in 1962 and became newspaper librarian in 1966, has been appointed to the newly-created position of administrative assistant (to the State Historian) for personnel and budgeting. Keller's new assignment will place him in charge of personnel records for the Library as well as recruiting and screening of new employees. In addition, he will represent the Library in its transactions with the state departments of Personnel and General Services and the Bureau of the Budget.

Another new position, that of comptroller (for the Historical Library and Society) has been created. Mrs. Doris L. Courtney, who has been in charge of administrative services for the Library and Society since 1958, will have the new title and will be concerned only with monetary or fiscal matters.

*HB 678 was introduced on February 26, 1971, by Representatives Jones, Blair, Hyde, Burditt, Kenneth W. Miller, Teleser, and Cox. Passed by the House on March 25 by a vote of 116 to 5, it was introduced in the Senate by Senator Sours the next day. The bill passed the Senate on June 11 by a vote

ILLINOIS student historians who went on the tour of the three Shelbyvilles are, left to right, Karen Schwenker, Shelbyville High School; Nancy Short and Steve Jones, Norris City-Omaha High School; Bill Bennett, Shelbyville; Mrs. Foster; and Marijo Milligen, Shelbyville.



Library—Old Capitol

Continued from Page 1

Last summer, with the acquisition by the Historical Library of the Carl Sandburg Birthplace in Galesburg, a new position of historic sites historian was created. John T. Keene, who joined the Library staff at that time, was named to that position, which also included supervision of Clover Lawn, the David Davis mansion in Bloomington. Keene now adds supervision of the Old Capitol guides to his responsibility for interpreting the three historic sites to the public.

"Acquisition of the Old State Capitol is indeed a milestone in the Historical Library's history," State Historian William K. Alderfer commented. "The striking increase in both staff size and budget can't be overlooked," he said, "but most noteworthy is the fact that now, for the first time since its creation in 1889, the Historical Library is housed in quarters it can truly call its own — our years as a tenant have ended."

Alderfer further stated that the Library would explore all possible methods of historic site interpretation to make the Old Capitol "one of the most impressive, absorbing, and worthwhile experiences a visitor could receive from any historic site in the nation."

One of the first steps in this direction, Alderfer said, will be restoration of the state treasurer's office to conform to the 1840-1860 furnishings of the other rooms in the building. The office has been used as administrative headquarters for the Old Capitol.

Alderfer expressed his appreciation to the Department of Conservation for the ease with which the transfer was accomplished. "Our special thanks go to building supervisor James T. Nally and his staff for the remarkably smooth working relationship that existed between our two agencies during the years that ended June 30," he added.

12 History Students Tour Three Shelbyvilles

Mrs. Olive S. Foster, director of school services for the State Historical Library, assisted in conducting a tour of three Shelbyvilles — in Illinois, Indiana, and

Kentucky — by a group of twelve high school history students from the three states during the week of July 5-11.

This was the second such tour sponsored jointly by the Council of Illinois Student Historians, the Indiana Junior Historical Society, and the Kentucky Young Historians Association. The students spent the week studying the architectural relationships of the three towns which are also the county seats of three Shelby counties. Their reports, along with some of the photographs they made, will be published this fall by the Indiana Junior Historical Society as a part of a series of architectural studies.

The tour ended at Shelbyville, Illinois, where the students were guests of the Shelby County Historical Society at a picnic. Three of the five Illinois students were from the Shelbyville High School and their tours were sponsored by the Shelby County Historical Society. The other two were from the Norris City-Omaha High School and their expenses were paid in part by the Norris City State Bank.

Historical Society Calendar

1971:

Oct. 15-16: Seventy-second annual meeting, Illinois State Historical Society, Belleville

Nov. 6: Fourth annual State and Local History Workshop for English and social studies teachers of grades 7-12, Chicago

Nov. 19-20: Fifth annual Congress of Illinois Historical Societies, Springfield

1972:

April 8: Student Historian Southern Regional Meeting, Carmi

April 15: Student Historian Central Regional Meeting, Normal

April 22: Student Historian Northeast Regional Meeting, Elgin

April 29: Student Historian Northwest Regional Meeting, Sterling

May 24: Twenty-fourth annual Student Historian Award Day, Springfield

June 3-4: Spring Tour, Illinois State Historical Society, Macomb (and Nauvoo)

Society Still Offers Silver Medallions

The 29 new members who were added to the rolls of the State Historical Society in May and June by vice-president Elsie O. (Mrs. Philip D.) Sang of River Forest serve as a reminder that those who enlist five or more new members are still eligible to receive one of the Society's silver distinguished service medallions. During the two months 94 names were added to the lists — including several who changed their memberships from an annual to a contributing (\$25), or a sustaining (\$10) basis.

Life Members

Nicholas J. Capos, M.D., Chicago
William D. Dyke, Madison, Wis.
David Macpherson Webster, Winnetka

Contributing

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Edelstein, Evanston
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Victor, Springfield

Sustaining

Mr. and Mrs. J. Fred Adams, Springfield
William F. Bartlett, Jr., Palos Heights
Charles H. Vial, LaGrange

Institutional

Tinley High School Library, Tinley Park

Annual

Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Armstrong, Lansing
Caron Atlas, Oak Park
Calude Axelrod, Westchester
Miss Roberta Behm, Mundelein
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Bennett, Dixon
William J. Brinkley, McLeansboro
James D. Bruner, Clearwater, Fla.
Mrs. Mabel F. Byerly, Springfield
Gary E. Callen, River Forest
Miss Alma S. Camp, Godfrey
L. C. Canham, Springfield
John P. Carlin, Hinsdale
Miss Diane P. Cohen, Downers Grove
Mrs. Norman Lee Cram, Kenilworth
Charles E. Dilenbeck, Geneseo
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Dixon, Springfield
Miss Mara N. Dubin, Maywood
Burton E. Falk, Oak Park
Miss Barbara Fiekowsky, LaGrange Park
Sam Franklin, Elmhurst
C. L. Friend, Sr., D.D.S., Carbondale
Samuel E. Golden, River Forest
Daniel Greenman, Riverside
William Grossman, Villa Park
Jeffery M. Gruen, Downers Grove
Mrs. F. L. Habbegger, Highland
Rex C. Hansen, Princeton
Greg Hays, Delavan
Harold Holzer, New York, N.Y.
Mr. and Mrs. John J. Hunnewell, Homewood
Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Huxel, Gibson City
Stanley Jacobs, River Forest
Donald E. Jensen, Lake Bluff
Robert H. Joshel, Geneva
Joseph A. Karma, Berwyn
Miss Mary Joan Kasbohm, Mundelein
Miss Sue Ann Kaster, Downers Grove
Stanley Kearney, Dolton
Martin J. Keidan, Oak Park
Steven B. Kelber, Wheaton
Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Kester, Chicago

Miss Alisa E. Koch, Oak Park
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. J. Kochman, Springfield
Elmer B. Kostka, Chicago
Miss Loretta Lacey, Mundelein
Mr. and Mrs. Sherman J. Lavigna, Battle Creek, Mich.
William J. Kittman, River Forest
Hugh P. McAniff, Arlington Heights
Miss Deborah S. Malk, Melrose Park
Bert Maybee, Kansas City, Mo.
Mr. and Mrs. Rupert D. Mendonnes, Chicago
James E. Murray, Neosho, Mo.
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rademacher, Mt. Prospect
Richard L. Rapp, Champaign
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond K. Robbins, Freeport
Miss Sue N. Rosengard, Berwyn
Stanley M. Rosensteel, Oak Park
Edward J. Rosewell, Chicago
Ted S. Rubenstein, Elmhurst
Mr. and Mrs. Norman W. Sandell, Morrison
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Schott, Dixon
Miss Jan E. Schwartz, Elmwood Park
Harvey W. Sears, M.D., Springfield
Robert Seelig, Oak Park
Charles A. Seils, Jr., Downers Grove
Dr. and Mrs. David Shapiro, Amboy
Mr. and Mrs. Garland F. Smith, Belleville
Mrs. Hettie B. Smith, Grand Junction, Colo.
Miss Susan C. Stein, Downers Grove
Mr. and Mrs. George A. Stiles, Dixon
Wilbur Dillen Thomas, Washington, D.C.
Mrs. Warren P. Tingley, Elmhurst
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Trohan, Washington, D.C.
Miss Georganna Tucker, Edwards
Mrs. A. D. Van Meter, Springfield
Seymour Wasserman, Chicago
Mr. and Mrs. John J. Watt, Springfield
Mrs. Robert F. Webster, Winnetka
John C. Weigel, Joliet
Glen Norman Wiche, Naperville
Richard W. Wood, Wheaton
Lynn A. B. Yates, Rome, N.Y.



Dispatch

from the Illinois State Historical Society

William K. Alderfer, Executive Director
Howard F. Rissler, Editor

Published bimonthly by the Illinois State Historical Society, Springfield, Illinois 62706. Subscriptions available through membership in the Society: \$5 individual annual, \$25 business, \$50 life (individual only). Other benefits of membership include a subscription to the quarterly Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, invitations to meetings and tours, and books and pamphlets published by the Society.

The news media may use any material which appears in the Dispatch provided credit is given.

Old State Capitol Reconstruction Wins Engineering Award

Governor Richard B. Ogilvie was presented a bronze plaque by three engineering firms involved in the Old State Capitol reconstruction in a brief ceremony in front of the building on March 11.

The plaque, which the Governor accepted on behalf of the state, was a replica of the Honor Award which the three firms had received in the national Consulting Engineers Council's Engineering Excellence Awards competition for 1970.

The engineering firms were the Walter E. Hanson Company of Springfield (foundation and other underground structural work), Collins and Rice, Inc., Springfield (above ground structural work), and Carroll-Henneman and Associates, Inc., Urbana (mechanical and electrical work).

Some of the Old State Capitol design solutions which won the award were the underground garage ceiling and roof structures, the Historical Library stack area with its storage and support for the building above, adaptation of modern steel framing to the period architecture of the building, and the ingenious hiding of the modern electrical and mechanical systems.

New Lights Installed At Old State Capitol

Reconstruction of the Old State Capitol has finally been completed with the recent installation of specially-made lighting fixtures that were ordered in 1968.

These fixtures are chandeliers, sconces, and hall lamps. The delay was caused principally by the fact that the specifications called for a large number of two-inch solid glass globe pendants as decorative features of the chandeliers and sconces. These pendants were handmade in Japan and no two are exactly alike.

The chandeliers consist primarily of a large suspended bronze ring from which the pendants hang; above the ring are the lights with milk-glass shades. There are two sizes of chandeliers: one has a ring six feet in diameter, twelve lights, and seventy-five pendants; on the other the ring is five feet in diameter, and there are nine lights and sixty-three pendants. Two of the large chandeliers were hung in the first floor lobby and one was hung in the state library. The two smaller chandeliers were hung in the second floor lobby.

The sconces have three of the milk-glass shaded lights and three glass pendants; nine were installed in the second floor lobby and four on the first floor. The three hall lamps are suspended clear glass globes in which are three lights to resemble candles.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR FOR 1971

May 14-15: Annual Spring Tour, Princeton

May 18: Twenty-second annual Student Historian Award Day, Holiday Inn East, Springfield

October 15-16: Seventy-second annual meeting, Belleville



Old State Capitol nine-lamp, 63-pendant chandelier

One of the "three-candle" hall lamps

The lights and pendants on the sconces match those on the chandeliers. (Photos by Al Von Behren, Historical Library staff.)



Society Will Dedicate Marker Commemorating Cherry Mine Disaster

A historical marker commemorating the Cherry Mine disaster of 1909 will be dedicated by the Illinois State Historical Society at the Cherry village park on Saturday, May 15. The dedication will be held during a bus tour of the historic sites of Bureau County. It will be at approximately 11 a.m.

The dedicatory speaker will be James Prendergast of nearby Arlington, a director of the Bureau County Historical Society. The marker is eight by four feet in size and the inscription tells the story of the fire which took the lives of 259 miners, the highest toll of any mine disaster in Illinois and the third highest in United States history. In addition, eleven members of the rescue teams lost their lives.

The Cherry mine was opened in 1905 by the St. Paul Coal Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway, which used its entire output.

On the Saturday morning of the disaster 484 miners went to work but some of them had left before the fire began in the early afternoon. Six bales of hay had been put in a coal car to be lowered to the mule stables at the third level, about 485 feet below the surface. The hay was apparently ignited by drippings from a kerosene torch and in turn set fire to the pine timbers in the shaft. Some of the miners escaped but most of them were trapped on the second level, some 320 feet below the surface. When efforts to put out the fire proved futile the mine was sealed in an attempt to smother the flames. A week later the shaft was opened and twenty-one men were found still alive; one died shortly after reaching the surface.

The fire broke out again and the mine was resealed until February, 1910, when it was reopened and the bodies of the victims were removed. Mining operations were resumed near the end of that year with work continuing at the third level until the mine was closed in 1927.

On November 13, 1911, two years after the fire, a fourteen-foot granite monument was dedicated in the Holy Trinity Miners' Memorial Cemetery on the edge of Cherry, "To the memory of the miners who lost their lives in the Cherry mine disaster."

Two Become Life Members; 44 Join Society

Two annual members became life members of the Illinois State Historical Society during the first two months of 1971, and 44 names were added to the membership list. One of the new life members is Charles L. McMackin, II, chairman of the board of trustees of the State Historical Library, who had been an annual member since 1949.

Life Members

Charles L. McMackin, II, Salem
Warren L. Van Dine, Burnside (annual member since 1958)

Contributing

Duncan Industries, Elk Grove Village

Institutional

Auburn High School, Rockford
Centennial High School, Champaign
Deerfield High School, Deerfield
Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Ind.
University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y.
Southwestern Massachusetts University, North Dartmouth, Mass.
University of Texas Library, Austin, Tex.
Vincennes University, Vincennes, Ind.
Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich.

Annual

Robert L. Alt, Elk Grove
Todd Baumann, Springfield
Mr. and Mrs. A.G. Berg, Springfield
John J. Bresce, Champaign
Cullom Davis, Springfield
Mrs. Tom Eastman, Elmhurst
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Egan, Galesburg
Mr. and Mrs. Noah Goldman, Chicago
Karl Grisso, Charleston
Theodore Gulino, Chicago
Mrs. Esther M. Gullo, Springfield

Bruce C. Harding, Brookfield
Steven P. Hayes, Washington
John C. Hayworth, Springfield
Mrs. Jean F. Hill, Urbana
Gene L. Jones, Marquette, Mich.
Preston M. Jones, Murphysboro
Mr. and Mrs. William B. Jones, Maroa
Miss Ella Joyce, Chicago
James L. Kimball, Jr., Ddgen, Utah
Mr. and Mrs. George M. Korn, Aledo
Miss Ann Lousin, Chicago
David J. Maurer, Charleston
Sandra Mohn, Springfield
Miss Carol Paremha, Chicago
Lucretia Peterson, Dolton
Mr. and Mrs. R.D. Pruden, Grayville
F. Stanley Rodkey, Freeport
Harold L. Semon, Springfield
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin L. Solon, Jr., Highland Park
Miss Frances Terrone, Chicago
Mrs. Harlan Watson, Paris
Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Weston, Lombard
Ray E. White, Springfield



Dispatch

from the Illinois State Historical Society

SERIES 3, NO. 19

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

OCTOBER, 1971

World's Eyes Focus On Old Capitol

Society & Library Welcome the President



ACCOMPANIED
by his daughter Julie
(Mrs. David Eisenhower),
the President waves to the crowd
as he emerges from Springfield's
Old State Capitol, home of the Illinois
State Historical Society and Library.

On August 18, 1971, the President of the United States paid a 40-minute visit to Springfield's Old State Capitol and the offices of the Illinois State Historical Society and Library. The purpose of his visit was to sign into law an Act of Congress (H.R. 9798) establishing the Lincoln Home National Historic Site—the first National Historic Site in the state of Illinois.

The public events of that historic day received national press coverage. Unpublicized, however, were the events surrounding the visit and their impact on the day-to-day history of the Historical Society and Library.

We have expanded this issue of the Dispatch to give members of the Illinois State Historical Society some idea of the detailed preparation involved when their Society played host to the President.

Although a conscientious hostess may require no more than a week to prepare for a private party in her home, a week's

preparation was hardly time enough for even a brief visit by the President and the 500 or 600 people—press, staff, security, and guests—who were present in the Old State Capitol that day.

In this story we have attempted to reconstruct the most hectic week the Illinois State Historical Society has ever seen. The reader should bear in mind that during this period the regular service activities of the Historical Library continued without interruption; the reading room, reference services, and inter-library loan operations were suspended only for the one day of the President's visit.

We thought of titling the story "Guess Who's Coming to Visit!" or "Everything You Have Always Wanted to Know About a Presidential Visit—*But Never Felt the Need to Ask!" But on second thought, we settled on the headline above and let it go at that.

"Bill—will you bring Jack and Bruce and meet me in the conference room in about five minutes?"

It was 8:40 a.m., Thursday, August 12, beneath Springfield's Old State Capitol—headquarters of the Illinois State Historical Society and Library.

"Come in and close the door. Have a seat and relax—we may be here some time." State Historian William K. Alderfer was speaking to William E. Keller, his administrative assistant; Jack Keene, historic sites historian; and Bruce Cody, public relations coordinator.

"You perhaps read in the papers that the President may soon visit Springfield. Well, it's true. The governor's office just informed me that the visit is confirmed for Wednesday, the 18th, and will include the Old State Capitol.

"Two men from the White House staff will be here at 9 o'clock this morning to discuss details."

Promptly at 9, a knock on the door announced the arrival of two smartly dressed young men: a Mr. Smith and a Mr. Johnson.*

"We'd appreciate it if you didn't use our names more than necessary," Smith said after the introductions. "And of course what we will be discussing should be kept in confidence." Thus was set the tone of secrecy and anonymity that was to prevail for the next seven days.

"I'm afraid that by next Tuesday afternoon you'll be wishing you'd never set eyes on us today," chuckled Johnson. As it developed, he wasn't too far from the truth!

The next two hours in the conference room were devoted to launching the busiest week in the history of the Library and Society.

"First of all," said Smith, "will each of you please write your name, home address, home and office phone number, social security number, sex and race, and the date and place of your birth on this sheet of paper. Eventually, we'll want the same information from all your staff

*All the names of White House or Secret Service personnel in this article are pseudonyms.

members who will be working with us," he added.

Smith then narrated the events to take place the following Wednesday: the President would arrive at the airport late in the morning and be at the Old Capitol about noon. There he would sign the Lincoln Home National Historic Site Bill, and then motorcade to the [state] fairgrounds for a brief visit before heading back to the airport. His appearance in and outside the Old Capitol was to be the highlight of his Springfield visit, since there would be no formal activity either at the airport or the fairgrounds.

"So," Smith concluded, "now we must decide on his schedule at the Old Capitol."

Alderfer interrupted: "Perhaps you gentlemen would like to tour the Old Capitol now so you will have a better idea of the facility when we discuss details."

"A good idea," replied Johnson.

This was the first of what would be seemingly dozens of trips through the Old Capitol complex.

After walking through the historic portion, the underground parking garage, and several offices, the group once again assembled in the conference room.

"It's been suggested that the ceremonies should take place on the portico," Smith said. "After seeing the House [of Representatives] Chamber and the Lincoln 'Inaugural Desk,' as you call it, I'm inclined to think they should take place inside. We'll let you know this afternoon."

"I understand that people from the offices of Governor [Richard B.] Ogilvie and Congressman [Paul] Findley will be available this afternoon. [Findley sponsored the Lincoln Home legislation.] Suppose we all meet here again and nail down the program."

"Fine," replied Alderfer. "We'll get in touch with them. How about 2 o'clock?"

That afternoon, the six who had met in the morning were joined by Donald Norton, administrative assistant to the congressman; Jay Bryant, assistant to the governor; and John Kolbe, the governor's assistant press secretary.

A second tour of the building followed Smith's announcement that the bill would be signed on the Lincoln Inaugural Desk in the House Chamber.

RICHARD B. OGILVIE
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SPRINGFIELD 62706

August 26, 1971

Mr. William Alderfer
State Historian
Historical Library
Old State Capitol
Springfield, Illinois 62706

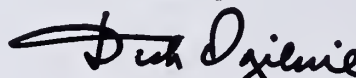
Dear Bill:

I want to thank you and your staff for the excellent job you did in handling arrangements for President Nixon's bill signing ceremony at the Old State Capitol on August 18th.

I was extremely pleased with the planning and execution of the event, and I know President Nixon was too.

Again, thank you and best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,



Richard B. Ogilvie
Governor

"We'd like the chamber to look as it does now, if that's possible," Smith said. "That is, we would like the desks and as many artifacts as are practical to remain in place. Therefore, I suggest you begin compiling a guest list. It's obvious that there won't be enough space for unrestricted public attendance."

"In addition," Smith continued, "there'll have to be some physical rearrangements to accommodate the press. We'll talk more about that tomorrow, when the Secret Service agent arrives."

"We have to visit the fairgrounds yet today. Suppose we leave you gentlemen to talk over what we've decided so far. You can reach us later at the St. Nicholas Hotel if you have to."

With that, Smith and Johnson departed.

• • •

Norton resumed the discussion.

"Both the governor and the congressman agree," he said, "that the guest list should acknowledge those people and groups whose work helped secure passage of the Lincoln Home Bill."

"What are your suggestions, Bill?"

"Well, first, of course, the Historical Society and Library have had a long, though not direct, relationship with the Lincoln Home since the days of its restoration," Alderfer answered. "Dick Hagen, who supervised the restoration for the Department of Conservation, made extensive use of the Library's source material during his research, and the Society and Library have long worked to keep the area from deteriorating and becoming commercialized."

In that respect Alderfer continued, the Library and Society supported, both in theory and with staff assistance, the efforts of the Abraham Lincoln Association and the Springfield Historic Sites Commission. He said he thought those groups should be represented, adding that in 1968 the Springfield Junior League joined the Abraham Lincoln Association to commission a professional, in-depth study that became the basis for the decision to seek a federal solution.

In addition, many individuals made significant contributions, he said, con-



Dispatch

from the Illinois State Historical Society

William K. Alderfer, Executive Director
Bruce D. Cody, Editor

Published bimonthly by the Illinois State Historical Society, Springfield, Illinois 62706. Subscriptions available through membership in the Society: \$5 individual annual, \$25 business, \$50 life (individual only). Other benefits of membership include a subscription to the quarterly Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, invitations to meetings and tours, and books and pamphlets published by the Society.

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cluding, "These people and groups, I think, plus present state and local officials should be invited. What do you think, Jay?"

"Sounds good to me. There are probably only a few other people the governor would like to have present besides those you mentioned."

Norton then suggested a meeting Friday to go over all the names suggested by the Society, the governor, and the congressman, concluding: "If we all work tonight to get these names down on paper, and meanwhile determine the maximum number based on the space available, we should be able to get special delivery letters out by tomorrow night. Of course we're going to miss some, but we can reach them by phone if necessary."

"What about press kits?" Cody inquired. "We will be dealing with the White House press corps as well as with local newsmen, will we not?"

"Yes," answered Kolbe. "Offhand, I would expect 200 to 400 all told if I were you. The White House press secretary's man will be here Saturday, I understand. Meanwhile, Bruce, can you work up a general release, as well as one on the Old Capitol, and one on the Home?"

"Sure thing. I'll assemble as many items as I think they can use and we can decide later what to include—brochures on the Home and so forth. How about pictures?"

"They're not absolutely necessary," Kolbe said, "but they would be nice for the smaller papers. How about one of the Home, the Old Capitol exterior, and one of the House Chamber with the desk; that should be enough."

"How many prints of each?"

"Plan on 400 kits, with the first 300 including pictures."

"Well, I think that about covers it for now," said Alderfer. "I've been told to expect the Secret Service man tomorrow at 9. Meanwhile, we'll put together the invitation lists, and Bruce will start on the press kits."

"Jay, can you and Don meet with me tomorrow afternoon on these invitations?"

"Right. Have fun!"

So Thursday—the first day—drew to a close.

Before it ended, Alderfer had asked Donna Nicolotti, his secretary, for lists of the officers and directors of all the organizations discussed earlier.

"Bill," Alderfer asked Keller, "suppose you and Jack prepare a list of those staff members you think we'll need to work on this thing directly. We'll go over it in the morning and have Doris Courtney [the Library and Society comptroller] prepare the personnel information the White House people wanted."

• • •



AS EARLY AS 11 o'clock Wednesday morning, the press section of the gallery was crowded with area newsmen—the White House traveling press had yet to arrive.

Friday morning's activity began when Smith arrived with Mr. Williams, Secret Service agent in charge of the President's security during the Springfield visit, and Mr. Miller, agent in charge of the Springfield Secret Service office. Their physical appearance was typical of the many agents that eventually participated in the Springfield visit: not unattractive, smartly dressed, courteous yet authoritative in manner. (Some of the female guides on the Library staff were later to remark quite favorably on the impression Williams gave!)

Alderfer, Keene, Keller, and Cody had assembled in the conference room to meet the visitors; they were joined that morning by James T. Hickey, curator of the Library's Lincoln collection.

After Smith made the introductions, he asked if the Lincoln Inaugural Desk could be moved from its usual place in the corner of the House Chamber to a spot just north of the speaker's dais.

"In the interests of space, may we also have the gallery emptied of all the benches?" he added, in a tone more declarative than inquisitive.

"Certainly," answered Alderfer. "Bill, will you take care of that?"

Smith then announced that the White House communications people would arrive on Saturday with everything of an electronic nature that would be required. "Is there someone with technical knowledge of the building who can assist them?" he asked.

"Yes, sir. Bill, see that Henry Midden is on hand here tomorrow," Alderfer said. "Henry is our chief electrician and acting building superintendent. He's forgotten more about the mechanical operations of the Old Capitol than most will ever learn, hasn't he, Bill?"

"Very good," said Smith. "Perhaps if we take another walk through the building, I can outline for Mr. Williams the route the President will be taking, and we can catch any potential security problems in time to allow for changes."

Once again, the procession began.

"The President will arrive through the garage and enter the building here, through the Library's main entrance," Smith said. "He will enter your office, Mr. Alderfer, through this side door. We'll use your office for a holding area until everything is ready."

"The entourage—including the governor and the congressman—will wait in the conference room."

"Now then, the President will take the elevator to the top floor. Let's go."

Everyone entered the elevator and rode to the Old Capitol's second floor.

"From the elevator, the President will proceed this way to the House Chamber, and walk from the south entrance to the dais."

"After the ceremonies, he will wait a few moments for the press pool to leave down the main stairway. That way they can precede him down the portico steps to the south gate and along the fence to Sixth Street. He will be shaking hands with the people all the way to Sixth Street, where his car will be waiting. The motorcade will begin there. Any questions?"

"Are there any special needs for the press that your people will not bring," Cody asked. "Platforms and the like?"

"Yes. We should have a small photographers' platform on the House floor. Also, while I think of it, we'll also need a low platform behind the rostrum. These should be constructed in such a way as to be as unobtrusive as possible. Remember, we don't want to change the looks of the chamber any more than necessary."

"But we *will* remove everything from the legislative desks except the candles and lamps, if that's all right," interjected Keene.

"Fine. Now, except for those newsmen on the floor, most of the press will be in the gallery, and will walk or ride downstairs to the middle or moat level, as you call it, and exit through the east door to Sixth Street where the buses will be waiting for them. The rest of the visitors

may then leave well behind the entourage or by the north portico door." Smith turned to Williams. "Do you see any problems, John?"

"No. I think we can iron everything out."

Smith excused himself to attend to details at the fairgrounds, and the group returned to the conference room.

"Incidentally," Williams said over mid-morning coffee, "I'll need a list of the people you'll have working that day."

"Here you are," Keller replied, handing across a list of fourteen guides, the engineers and guards to be on duty, and eleven additional people from the office staff.

"I know the elevators are automatic," Williams continued. "But for the President we will want them manually operated. That means two people assigned as elevator operators."

"Let's use Mike Jurkanin," Keller suggested, "and Tom Wilsted."

"Fine with me," Alderfer said. "Now is there anything to be done about the garage?"

"Yes, indeed," answered Williams. "It will have to be kept completely cleared Wednesday until the President leaves."

"I don't think we'll have any trouble there," Keller said. "I'll talk to Bob Park and arrange for the garage to be closed from 10 Tuesday night until the President leaves Wednesday. I'm sure the monthly rental patrons won't mind the inconvenience."

"I gather the same will apply to the Old State Capitol and the Historical Library?" Alderfer asked.

"That's right," said Williams. "We'll want to know every person who is in the building that day. You may open afterwards, if you wish."

"I don't think that will be practical," rejoined Alderfer. "With all the clean-up work to be done, we might as well stay closed for the entire day."

Williams then concluded the session: "Mr. Brown, who heads the White House communications people for this visit, will be in tomorrow. And I have

arranged to meet with your state and local security people here tomorrow afternoon. So I'll grab some lunch and visit the airport and fairgrounds. See you gentlemen tomorrow!"

"Well," sighed Alderfer to his four assistants, "let's get going—it looks as if we're going to move into high gear tomorrow!"

With that, the staff started to work. Keene and Hickey went up to the House Chamber, where Lowell Anderson, historic sites curator, joined them to begin rearranging the furniture, starting with the Lincoln Inaugural Desk.

The balance of Friday afternoon, until well past the normal 5 o'clock closing hour, found Alderfer closeted with Bryant and Norton in the conference room poring over the hundreds of names they had collected: checking for duplicates, searching for addresses, determining who had spouses that had to be included, and trying to avoid omissions without, at the same time, exceeding the capacity of the House Chamber.

Cody began working on the news releases for the press kits: a general story describing what was to happen that Wednesday, a feature on earlier historic events that occurred in the House Chamber, a feature on the Lincoln Home, the text of the bill the President was to sign, and a piece on the Inaugural Desk. He also involved Al von Behren, the Library's staff photographer.

"Al," Cody said with a smile, "would you do me a small favor?"

"Sure. What is it?"

"Can you take a shot of the House Chamber after the fellows get the Inaugural Desk moved and a shot of the Old Capitol outside and print me some copies by Tuesday?"

"No trouble at all. How many prints do you want?"

"Three hundred of each."

"What?? That's some 'small favor'!"

"Conservation has promised 300 prints of the Home—that should console you a little."

Von Behren was to spend the weekend rarely seeing the light of day as he and Steve Martin, curatorial aide for the Library, labored in the dark room.

"Henry," Keller called to Henry Mid-den with the same smile. "Can you step into my office for a minute?"

"I don't know what else we're going to need before this is over, but right now we need a photographers' platform, a low speaker's platform, the benches removed from the gallery of the House, the lighting fixtures removed from the floor, and a conference with the elevator company. Will you get on those projects for starters?"

"Anything's possible for a price, Bill." "Go to it!"

• • •

Before Saturday's activities had ended, the Library staff began to harbor second thoughts about the thrills involved in hosting a Presidential visit!

"Come in, Bruce," Alderfer began the third day. "Mr. Williams called to tell me that the Secret Service will require some sort of identifying badge for the guests Wednesday. I think it would be nice if they left with something more lasting than a paper tag to keep as a souvenir of the event. What can we do? Can we do something on metal?"

"Let's call our engraving company and find out."

"All right. Meanwhile, compose what you think the badge should say."

An hour later the engraving company president was seated at the conference table.

"Here are some samples of what we can do," he said. "I might as well warn you, however, that because you'll need them by Wednesday morning, there will be some overtime involved."

"Considering the outlay we're already making—with more to come," Alderfer replied holding up one sample, "we'll go ahead with this in two colors. These people will be coming here as our guests from all over the state and the President doesn't visit us every day."

COLONEL Julius Weiss (right foreground) and the men of the 114th Ill. Vol. Inf. Regt. (Reactivated) assembled early, along with a portion of the crowd that was to jam the south plaza of the Old Capitol.





THE PRESIDENTIAL limousine arrives at the Old Capitol. Note the loudspeakers on the grounds that would carry the indoor proceedings to those on the street.

"Bruce, do you have the text and logo?"

"Yes, sir, right here. When will you have a proof?"

"Sometime tomorrow afternoon. Can you come over to the plant to check the proof so we can save some time?"

"I'll come when you call," Cody answered. "It looks as though we'll be here most of Sunday."

As the engraver left, a man who turned out to be Mr. Brown of the White House communications staff knocked on the door.

"Come in. Welcome to the Old State Capitol," Alderfer said. "Bruce, will you scare up Bill Keller and Henry Midden to take care of Mr. Brown?"

So began one of the most interesting phases of the preparations. From Saturday afternoon through Tuesday, White House electronics men seemingly were everywhere.

First came the White House telephones—five in all. The first went into the State Historian's office—the "holding area," another was placed in the House Chamber gallery where the White House sound engineer would be, a third was placed at the south entrance to the chamber, a fourth at the north entrance, and the last under the speaker's rostrum.

These phones were for the use of the President or his immediate staff only. An additional dozen public phones, for the use of the press, were to be placed on tables at the east exit of the Old Capitol grounds Wednesday morning.

"By tomorrow we'll have a Springfield White House switchboard operating," Brown said. "If you need anyone on the

staff, no matter where he is, just call this number." With that, Brown gave Alderfer several small white business-type cards which said: "To Reach the Springfield White House Dial Area 217/523-4562." (This was a temporary number of course, and was discontinued after the President left. When the number was dialed, a male voice answered: "Springfield Signal.")

It developed that power needs for the White House press corps for television lighting and sound would require extensions to the Old Capitol wiring. It became necessary to obtain an extra 2,000 feet of electrical cable capable of bearing 160 amperes for the House Chamber and outside on the Old Capitol grounds.

Midden called electrical equipment suppliers in Springfield all Saturday afternoon and finally located one who agreed to open his warehouse and provide the cable. Another delay was occasioned by the need to shut off the electrical company's elaborate security systems, but Midden returned triumphant. His three electricians, who had been disassembling the floor lamps in the House gallery, set to work on the cable.

Meanwhile, White House men were installing radio and television multi-feed equipment, microphones, and amplifiers within the House Chamber and assembling their equipment to do the same Wednesday on the Old Capitol lawn.

Two carpenters meanwhile were busy assembling a photographers' platform 2 1/2' high and 3' x 5' long, steps to the platform, and a speaker's platform 5 1/2' high and 3'9" wide by 4'9" long for the President to stand on. Both were

covered with remnants of the same ingrain carpet that covered the chamber floor, so that the platforms would be inconspicuous.

Also being fabricated was a stand to allow the presidential rostrum to rest evenly on the house clerk's sloping desk.

The platform construction and the electrical work, both by the Library and the White House staffs, took part of Saturday, all of Sunday and Monday, and part of Tuesday. Some of this time was devoted to creating a back-up sound and light system on the outside chance that the primary system might fail.

The gallery benches were unbolted from the floor and prepared for the movers to store on Monday—a project that was to take some effort since the benches were heavy and cumbersome, similar to those used in old churches. They were too large to be moved down the stairway and had to be lifted over the gallery railing.

Shortly after lunch, the conference room once again became the starting point for a tour of the complex. This time Williams, accompanied by Keller, escorted a group of state and local police officers and a representative of the Springfield Fire Department through the complex.

"We'll need all these fire extinguishers checked out," the fireman said to Keller.

"O.K. I'll call the company right away."

"As we go over the route the President will take, I'll point out assignments," Williams told his group.

The tour progressed with more comments from Williams: "I'd like a plain-clothesman here . . . We'll need two uniformed (men) there." He gestured at a door. Repeating his orders at stairways, landings, gates, and other areas, he led the procession through the complex. The sum total of men requested by the Secret Service began to sound like a call for a police association convention.

The group moved outside.

"I'd like a uniformed man on each of those building roofs," Williams said, pointing to eight or nine of the highest buildings on the square. "The men should be visible to the public and be watching the roofs of the surrounding lower buildings."

"We'll also need a check of every window fronting the square whether the rooms are occupied or not. If they are not regularly occupied, they should be secured."

"What's this?" he asked Keller, pointing to a large square grating.

"That's the air intake for the complex."

"Are there any others?"

"No, that's it."

"What can be done to secure this?"

"How do you mean?"

"We can't have someone toss a smoke or gas bomb onto the grating that would

saturate the building through the ventilation system."

"I'll see Henry—I'm sure we can come up with a type of cover that won't hamper the air intake operation."

By Tuesday afternoon, a plywood and chicken wire platform somewhat resembling a chicken coop would be constructed and placed over the air intake. It would serve the purpose of deflecting any hand-tossed object long enough to minimize the danger. If it did not prove completely successful, Library engineers were prepared to shut down the entire ventilating system at a moment's notice—an action that would be exceedingly expensive if it became necessary.

"All guests will enter the building through the north (portico) door," Williams said. "The only open gate will be the one on the north, and there we'll need some of your people to check the guests as they enter and distribute the identification badges. It would be a good idea to rope off the sidewalk from the gate to the door."

Keller kept scribbling on his note pad. "Intake cover, rope, staff at gate . . . got it."

"May we use the conference room now for a closed meeting?" Williams asked.

"Certainly," answered Keller. "I'll get those extra fire extinguishers you asked for," he said to the fireman, "and we can go over your requirements again on Tuesday to make sure everything's O.K." "Fine."

• • •

"Gentlemen, this is Mr. Jones of the White House staff," Alderfer announced to Keller, Cody, and Keene. "If you'll all have a seat around my desk here, we have a few more items to discuss. Mr. Jones works for Mr. Smith on arrangements and is in charge of the Old Capitol portion of the visit."

"I won't take much of your time," Jones began, "but I understand that band music outside has been suggested. Is there any way we can hear these people before Wednesday?"

"The band is the Springfield Municipal Band," Cody responded. "I've talked to Mr. Bonafeste, their manager,

AFTER RECEIVING their identification badges and tickets at the desk under the canopy (right rear), the invited guests enter the Old Capitol well before noon.



and he tells me they are playing every afternoon in the fairgrounds grandstand and would be happy to do anything you suggest."

"Good. We'll stop out Sunday afternoon . . . There was also mention of a ceremonial honor guard. Can you fill me in?"

"The 114th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment (Reactivated) is a group of local men outfitted in Civil War uniforms who perform honor guard duties at various functions around town," Alderfer said. "They're quite sharp and would add a lot to the occasion."

"Are they armed?"

"Yes, with Civil War rifles."

"I'm sure Mr. Williams's men can clear their weapons that morning. Suppose we plan for them to flank the south sidewalk from the portico to the gate."

"Great," answered Alderfer. "I'll get in touch with Julius Weiss, their commander. I'm sure they'll be glad to do it."

"Have him send me the names and addresses of all the men he'll have."

"I think that's about it for now. I've been through the building with Mr. Smith, and we'll be seeing you Monday on the final details."

As Saturday's activities drew to a close, Keller asked: "I'm ready for a drink . . . Any joiners?" Cody, Hickey, and Keene raised their hands. "Let's go. The next four days are going to be something else."

And they certainly were.

• • •

Sunday, however, brought with it the calm before the storm.

Cody sat at his typewriter preparing items for the press kits he would discuss with Kolbe the next day.

Keene, Keller, and Hickey surveyed the logistics of rearranging the House Chamber.

"We can use the chairs from the Senate Chamber to fill up the floor inside the rail," Hickey said. "The artifacts and papers on top of the legislative desks can be locked in the desk drawers."

"The movers will be here tomorrow morning for the gallery benches and all these other desks," Keller said, pointing to the non-legislative clerks' desks around the room.

"Remember to buy enough rope for the chamber here," Keene said, "when you order it for the sidewalks."

The four descended to the offices.

"Watch your step," Keller cautioned, "stay on the paper." The carpet in Alderfer's office, the conference room, and the office corridors was being shampooed by a team from a local company, and butcherpaper outlined the traffic patterns over wet areas. A man from the local florist was cleaning and spraying the leaves on the plants decorating the outer offices. Library janitor John Martin was washing the walls.

In the conference room, Keller continued: "Williams wants some of our people at the north gate Wednesday to verify the guest list as people arrive. They'll be there from about 9:30 to noon, either in the hot sun or, God forbid, the rain. We'd better order a small tarpaulin-type shelter."

"Good idea," said Keene. "We should also give them a couple of chairs and a table. I've seen some of the lists Donna has typed. Whoever is assigned to the gate will need something to work on and to hold the badges and tickets."

The afternoon wore on.

"Anyone want to mind the phone for a while?" Cody called from his typewriter. "I'm running dry."

"I'll take it," answered Keene. "Who's been calling?"

"The governor's office a couple of times—nothing important—and a handful of guests expressing their pleasure or

GUEST

AT THE VISIT OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

RICHARD M. NIXON

TO THE

OLD STATE CAPITOL



ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY

Springfield, August 18, 1971

A GUEST TICKET (actual size). The photoengraved metal badges were identical except for the color; the badge text appeared in blue, the Society logo (lower left corner) in red.



SOCIETY Executive Director William K. Alderfer greets the President at the entrance to the Historical Library beneath the Old Capitol. Governor Ogilvie walks between the two, followed by Secret Service agents and White House staff members.

regrets. Here . . . use this pad. And thanks."

"Hold it Bruce," Keene called. "You've got a call on six."

"We have the proof on your badges," the voice on the phone announced. "Can you come over and check it out?"

"Be right there," Cody answered. He turned to Keene: "I'm going over to the engravers, Jack, and I think I'll head home from there."

"O.K., see you in the morning—remember we have a meeting for the guides at 8:30!"

The day of calm ended.

...

"I know you're wondering why we've called you all together this morning," Alderfer smiled at the roomful of expectant faces. It was 8:30 Monday morning in the staff lounge.

"We haven't the faintest idea," a waggish voice from the rear responded, to the chuckles of the rest.

"Since you don't know, I'll tell you. The President will be here Wednesday. There are a few things out of our ordinary routine that his visit will cause. Jack Keene will tell you about them. Jack . . ."

"First of all, all guides will be on duty Wednesday. There will be no parking in the garage after it closes Tuesday night. We expect from 300 to 400 guests by invitation only and another 200 to 300 reporters and photographers.

"This does not include the police, Secret Service, White House staff, and other individuals besides ourselves who will be working here that day. I needn't remind you that the whole operation requires the utmost cooperation from us all."

Keene went on to describe the general security measures that would be in force—which doors were to be used and so forth—and the general pattern that would be followed in handling guests and the press. He gave out work assignments and then announced that relatives and friends of the Library staff would be given a preferred area to see the President immediately outside the south gate.

"Please let me know their names so we can distribute their name tags to you by Tuesday night." (As it developed, more relatives and friends than staff members

themselves were to shake hands with the President as he left the Old Capitol!)

When the meeting broke up, everyone seemed to start talking at once—the most popular subject: security measures. As varied as the opinions were about what was going to be done, all of the speculation fell short of what actually happened.

The pace of the preparations began to pick up.

Cody spent the morning with John Kolbe in the governor's office trying to organize a press kit. A scheduled fifteen-minute discussion dragged into two hours as Kolbe's telephone constantly interrupted their conference. When it wasn't the phone, it was members of the local press seeking their credentials or other information.

Finally, Cody was able to return to the Old Capitol and have the specially written items prepared for duplication by the Illinois Information Service or for direct reproduction at a private print shop.

Keller and Midden were all over the Old Capitol complex: directing Library engineers and electricians or answering the questions of their White House counterparts.

Arrangements were made with the elevator company not only to bypass the automatic computer that regulated each elevator with respect to the other, but to operate the elevator hoisting mechanism by hand if, by any mischance, the President's car stalled between floors. This would be done by manually braking the cable until the car was lowered to a point opposite an outer door.

All Wednesday morning until the President left, an elevator mechanic and a Secret Service agent would stand by in the machinery room.

Keene and Hickey supervised the furniture movers in the House Chamber and then cleared off the desks that remained. The Inaugural Desk was never intended to be viewed from above, so it had to be fitted with a cover on the very top to look presentable for the cameras that would be in the gallery. The press and speaker's platforms were positioned and the rostrum was leveled.

During all this, White House lighting crews were busily adjusting their floodlights and testing camera angles, both from the gallery and the floor. By Tuesday night they would have achieved their goal and placed their final touch: two strips of masking tape on the floor to make sure the governor and congressman were standing in the proper places so the cameras could most effectively record the actual bill signing.

GOVERNOR OGILVIE introduces the President in the crowded House Chamber. Note the tape on the carpet (right, behind empty chair) marking exactly where the governor and congressman were to stand during the bill signing. (For result, turn page.) Television film cameras frame the picture.



In the office, meanwhile, all three telephone lines were constantly in use: calls to and from the governor's office, the congressman's office, the White House staff people who weren't in the building, to a florist for flowers and a jeweler for a sterling silver coffee service for the President's entourage, to guests who had been inadvertently overlooked in the mailed invitations, from guests responding to their invitations.

The epicenter of activity was now the reception area outside Alderfer's office, where Doris Courtney and Donna Nicolotti manned the telephones with the aid of Edith DeGroot. Their desks became message centers piled high with notes to be typed, records of phone messages, and assorted items to be delivered to White House or Library staff members.

As Monday drew to an end, a fervent hope began to grow in everyone's mind—a hope that would last until Wednesday afternoon: "God forbid that there be a crisis of some sort that would cancel the visit!" For the White House staff, of course, such an event would be all in a day's work. But the Library and Society had by now invested, not only time, but such substantial commitments based solely on the visit that its cancellation would be a minor calamity.

• • •

On Tuesday the multitude of details under preparation since Thursday began to fall into place. By far the most hectic day of the seven—including the big day to follow—Tuesday saw most of the guest responses recorded; press kit material delivered from Information Service and the printer; photographs printed; and the final touches given the House Chamber.

The chamber, as focal point of the visit, now held the White House rostrum ready for the presidential seal that would be mounted just before the President spoke. The dais was flanked by the national and presidential colors. The

platforms, lights, Inaugural Desk, seating, and electronic gear for the communications media were in readiness. The sound system had been checked and double-checked, including the loudspeakers on the Old Capitol grounds that would carry the proceedings to the the crowds outside.

The guest tickets arrived. In addition to the souvenir badge, each guest would receive a ticket colored either red, white, or blue. A white ticket would admit the bearer to the area inside the railing in the House Chamber that separated the legislative desks from the rest of the room. This was the only area with seats. A red ticket would admit the guest to the standing area outside the rail on the floor of the chamber. In the gallery, blue ticket holders were to be awarded space not occupied by the press.

Late Tuesday, all the press kit items had arrived and were laid out on the tables in the Library reading room. There, half a dozen staff members helped collate the kits. Each specially printed envelope was filled with a brochure on the Lincoln Home; reprints of three articles in the *Society Journal* dealing with the Old Capitol; two brochures on the Old Capitol; an Abraham Lincoln chronology; the text of the bill the President would be signing; a map prepared by the National Park Service showing the general development plan for the Lincoln Home area; photographs of the Home, the Old Capitol, and the House Chamber; press releases on the State Fair, the Inaugural Desk, and the significance of the Lincoln Home Bill; a feature on earlier historic events in the Old Capitol; and the text of the governor's remarks introducing the President.

By the time this project was finished, the summer sun had long since set and the staff who were still in the office were nearing a state of collapse.

"Let's eat!" Keller declared. No sooner were the words spoken than the bedraggled kit-stuffers headed for a nearby restaurant.

Conversation over dinner that evening ranged wide but always returned to the events of the week and the climactic day just hours away.

"I never would have believed it," Cody remarked. "All of this (work) for a 40-minute visit. We're just aware of the Old Capitol part; think of the fairgrounds people, the airport preparations, the city's planning for the (Old Capitol) plazas and motorcade route, the governor's office, the state police—even the protesters have to get ready!"

"That's not the only thing that strikes me," Keller rejoined. "He's visiting New York tonight and going to Idaho and Wyoming yet tomorrow afternoon with Dallas on Thursday. Each of these places is going through what we're going through with a White House contingent at each place."

"Well, you people relax," Hickey told the group. "Bill and I have to get back to help Henry with the 'bomb squad.'"

• • •

The "bomb squad."

Unknown to Hickey and Keller, Henry Midden was already playing host to a detail of Secret Service agents who were experts at sniffing out devious methods of homicide. No fewer than three searches of the Old Capitol complex took place. "Sweeps" were made Tuesday evening between 7 and 9 and on Wednesday morning between midnight and 3, and again between 8:30 and 11:30. Literally every foot of the Old Capitol complex was inspected. From the flagpole on the Old Capitol dome to the boilers and air conditioning machinery in the bowels of the building.

The underground garage had, by now, been emptied of all automobiles. A search was made of every anteroom, door, light fixture, sewer drain, emergency fire hose, nook and cranny in the garage.

Even the 130,000 bound volumes in the Library's five floors of stacks and the boxes containing the over 3,000,000

A BILL becomes law . . . in three easy steps. Sitting at the tall bookkeeper's desk at which Lincoln drafted his first inaugural address 110 years earlier, the President approves legislation authorizing U.S. ownership of the Lincoln Home and the area surrounding it. (On the facing page, pool cameramen record the event.)



manuscripts in the Library's collections were inspected. Time obviously would not permit a search of each book and box, but "the agents knew their business" Henry Midden later recalled, and nothing out of order escaped their eyes.

Lockers of the guides and guards had been ordered left unlocked—they were searched.

Every drawer in every desk in every office was inspected.

Paul Spence, the Library's manuscript curator, was dismayed to learn later what had happened in his office. Because of the value or confidential nature of manuscripts that are processed there, Spence long ago had attached a note to his office door reminding the janitors "Do Not Open in the Morning." This, of course, to the unknowing agents, was waving the rag at the bull. Three descended upon his office Tuesday evening. In the space of about twenty minutes, they opened every manuscript box, every book, every drawer, every file. They disassembled his typewriter and his telephone. They emptied his wastebasket. They looked under his chairs and under and into his desk. They dismantled his ceiling light fixtures. By the time they had finished, they were certain that the sticker they then affixed between his door jamb and door—"Notify Security Before Breaking Seal"—clearly designated his office as "secure."

Every desk drawer in the House Chamber, every picture, light fixture, drape, stove, and platform was searched. The window frames, the chair seats, the ventilating ducts were searched. The areas between the House and Senate Chamber ceilings and the building roof were searched.

Elsewhere, flower pots were rodded. Filing cabinets were opened and their drawers, frames, and contents inspected. The coffee and cola dispensing machines in the staff lounge were opened and



THE PRESIDENT displays the signed document—the result of three years of effort by many individuals and groups.

searched. All furniture was thoroughly examined. Fire extinguishers and ash tray stands were scrutinized.

After the visit, one staff member said, "But I locked my desk!" He was gently informed that locks posed no problem to the Secret Service.

Wednesday morning, the ladies of the office staff were crestfallen when, after carefully arranging a beautiful display of red carnations on Alderfer's desk for the President to enjoy, they later saw the effects of an agent's examination of the decorative centerpiece.

[The security precautions taken for the President's visit to the Old Capitol were so great they would make a story in themselves. In this article, some items have been omitted for security reasons; others for lack of space.]

• • •

Fortunately for all concerned, Wednesday morning arrived under clear skies and a bright sun. The staff on duty that day entered the Old Capitol through the north gate and portico door past the watchful eyes of the Secret Service. The big day was about to begin.

Mr. Williams arrived early.

"Are all your people here that I have on my list?" he asked Keller.

"All but one."

"Well, here are their identification tabs," he said, counting out the proper number of small unmarked metal lapel tabs about one inch square. "All our people have lapel pins similar to mine."

Keene proceeded to climb to the Old Capitol dome to raise the flag.

"Since the area had been 'swept,' he later recalled, "I was followed every step of the climb by an agent—even to the flagpole itself. I must say he was puffing a bit by the time we got to the top."

The office was relatively calm that morning, since almost everything that had to be done was ready.

Olive Foster, Ellen Whitney, Mildred Schulz, and Norma Darovec arrived to pick up their materials. These ladies from the Library's professional staff were to man the north gate checking the invited guests and distributing the badges and tickets. A table and chairs under a small carnival-type tent were waiting for them outside.

A final meeting was held in the staff lounge for the guides, who then proceeded upstairs to their assigned stations.

Cody had loaded his car with the press kits the night before and now departed for the airport to place a supply in each of the press buses waiting there.

First arrivals at the Old Capitol, aside from the White House and Library personnel, were the press, television, and radio representatives from central Illinois not traveling with the motorcade. They trudged up the gallery north stairs lugging their cameras and other gear. Members of the traveling press would precede the motorcade from the airport, unload, and set up their equipment while the President waited in Alderfer's office. By that time the press section of the gallery would be jammed with men and equipment. Motion picture cameras would line the railing, with still



cameramen elbowing for position between them.

On the chamber floor behind the railing stood six more television film cameras along with the pool cameramen (a small group selected by lot to accompany the President closely and distribute the results of their work equally to the rest of the press corps).

At 11:30 the doors to the chamber were closed to all but the press. By then Springfield's August sun, the floodlights, and the crowded condition of the room had raised the temperature to an uncom-

fortable degree, taxing the air conditioning system to its maximum. The gallery became akin to a steam bath. (Fortunately, however, only one person was to faint.)

Twelve noon arrived.

Downstairs in the office reception area, the cast of Library and Society staff members who had labored long hours for six days in anticipation of a visit by the President of the United States assembled: Keller, Keene, Courtney, Hickey, Nicolotti, DeGroot, Foster, Schulz, Whitney, and Darovec. Henry Midden

was at his station upstairs by a telephone to assist the Secret Service if an emergency arose. Von Behren and Cody stood in the Library foyer with the White House staff photographer.

The nervous banter among the staff gradually stilled. Would it all come off smoothly?

Alderfer stood at the curb in the garage outside the Library entrance. It was 12:10 p.m., Wednesday, August 18, 1971.

"Welcome to the Old State Capitol, Mr. President!" he said.



Photographs by Illinois State Historical Library, Illinois Information Service, Illinois Secretary of State, Illinois Department of Conservation, Illinois Department of Law Enforcement, and the White House

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
September 13, 1971

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your help on preparing for the President's signing of the Lincoln Home Historical Site Bill. The ceremony in the Old State Capitol went exceptionally well and looked just great.

You and your staff did an excellent job in preparing for the ceremony. Thank you again for your outstanding assistance.

Best regards,

Mr. William K. Alderfer
State Historian
Old State Capitol
Illinois State Historical Library
Springfield, Illinois 62706

MEMBERS of the Historical Society and Library staff watch the President and his entourage depart the Old State Capitol. The note above was signed by the "Mr. Smith" of the story.



Dispatch

Series 3, No. 19—OCTOBER, 1971



Your assistance in connection with my visit meant a great deal and I want to express my thanks to you.

Richard Nixon

LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE FOUNDATION
FT. WAYNE, INDIANA. 46302

2.3

First Rank In America

Sangamon Courthouse A Monument To The Great Men Of Another Day.

By HORACE H. BANCROFT.

It has been said that "monuments may be builded to express the affection or pride of friends, or to display their wealth, but they are only valuable for the characters which they perpetuate." Measured by such a yardstick the Sangamon county courthouse takes first rank in the category of public buildings in America where famed voices have resounded and figures prominent in the nation's life have written their names in bold relief in the never ending drama of political history and forensic debate.

Built at a cost of \$260,000 as a state house, when the capital of Illinois was moved from Vandalia to Springfield, by act of the general assembly in joint session Feb. 25, 1837, the cornerstone of the Maj. Edward D. Baker, afterwards Col. Baker and later United States senator from Oregon, delivered an animated address.

People Choose Site.

In August, 1834, an election had been held throughout the state to determine by popular sentiment the question of the location for a future state capital. The cities of Springfield, Alton, Vandalia, Peoria and Jacksonville were contenders for the honor and the choice fell to Springfield.

The act of the legislature provided that the citizens of the new location should donate a building site of not less than two acres and also \$50,000.

March 11, 1837, the public square in Springfield, site of the old Sangamon county courthouse was conveyed by the county commissioners of Sangamon county to Gov. Joseph Duncan. Work on the new state house soon got under way and many delays the structure

was completed in 1853. The architect was J. F. Rague of Springfield. It was a matter of much comment at the time and since, that it was remarkable that a town the size of Springfield should have an architect capable of designing such a structure. During the construction of the building, the lines of which have been pronounced by eminent architects, as one of the finest examples of Grecian architecture in the United States, Mr. Rague was retained as supervising architect at a salary of \$1,000 a year.

Henry A. Converse, director of the Lincoln Association of Springfield and author of the much lauded address "The House of the House Divided," delivered in the Sangamon county courthouse, Feb. 12, 1924, considers the Sangamon county court house the most historic building west of the Alleghenies.

From a compilation recently made of the Converse address the following historic facts stand out in bold perspective:

"House Divided Against Itself Speech."

Relative to the "House Divided Against Itself" speech Mr. Converse's comment is as follows:

"In the evening of June 16, 1858, Mr. Lincoln delivered in this room his famous 'House Divided Against Itself' speech.

"Very shortly after the commencement of his address he said:

"A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the union to be dissolved, I do not expect the house to fall, but I expect that it will cease to be divided."

"This expresses the very essence

of the philosophy of Mr. Lincoln. He had an abiding faith that the question of slavery would be ultimately settled, and settled right, and he also had an abiding faith that the union would be saved. It cannot be said that Mr. Lincoln knew exactly how this was going to be brought about."

Governors whose office was in this capitol building were: Thomas Carlin, Thomas Ford, Augustus C. French, Joel A. Matteson, William H. Bissell, John Wood, Richard Yates, Richard J. Oglesby, John M. Palmer and John L. Beveridge.

Thrilling Scenes.

Space will not permit elaboration of all the thrilling scenes and epoch making events that took place in this building now known as the Sangamon county courthouse, but mention of some of them in paragraph lines will be made.

Ulysses S. Grant given commission as colonel of 21st Illinois regiment by Gov. Richard Yates.

The following paragraph is from the Converse address:

"Ulysses S. Grant attracted practically no attention in this city, and no one dreamed that within four years he would be the commanding general of the armies of the union, with a reputation as one of the world's greatest generals. No one in Springfield, by the wildest flight of imagination, would have anticipated that this young man, looking for a commission, drilling soldiers at \$60 a month, would within eight years, be president of the United States." This was one of the most dramatic events in Illinois history.

Constitutional conventions of 1848, 1862 and 1870 held.

Prorogation of general assembly, legislators sent home by Civil War Gov. Richard Yates, when two houses failed to reach an agreement on adjournment.

Hay Was Secretary.

John Hay at age of 22, as secretary to Abraham Lincoln, handled important correspondence, at most

trying period. Became secretary of state under Pres. McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt, ambassador to Court of St. James, negotiator of the Hay-Pauncefot treaty and the "open door" policy in China.

Newton Bateman, organizer of the public school system of Illinois, whose seven biennial reports were copied in five foreign languages began his career here as educator and superintendent of public instruction.

John G. Nicolay, clerk in office of O. M. Hatch, secretary of state, loaned to Mr. Lincoln, subsequently went to Washington with him and with John Hay they became secretaries to the president. Afterward in association with Hay wrote Life of Lincoln.

It was E. D. Baker who was given the honor and enjoyed the distinction of introducing Abraham Lincoln to the audience after he took the oath of office as president.

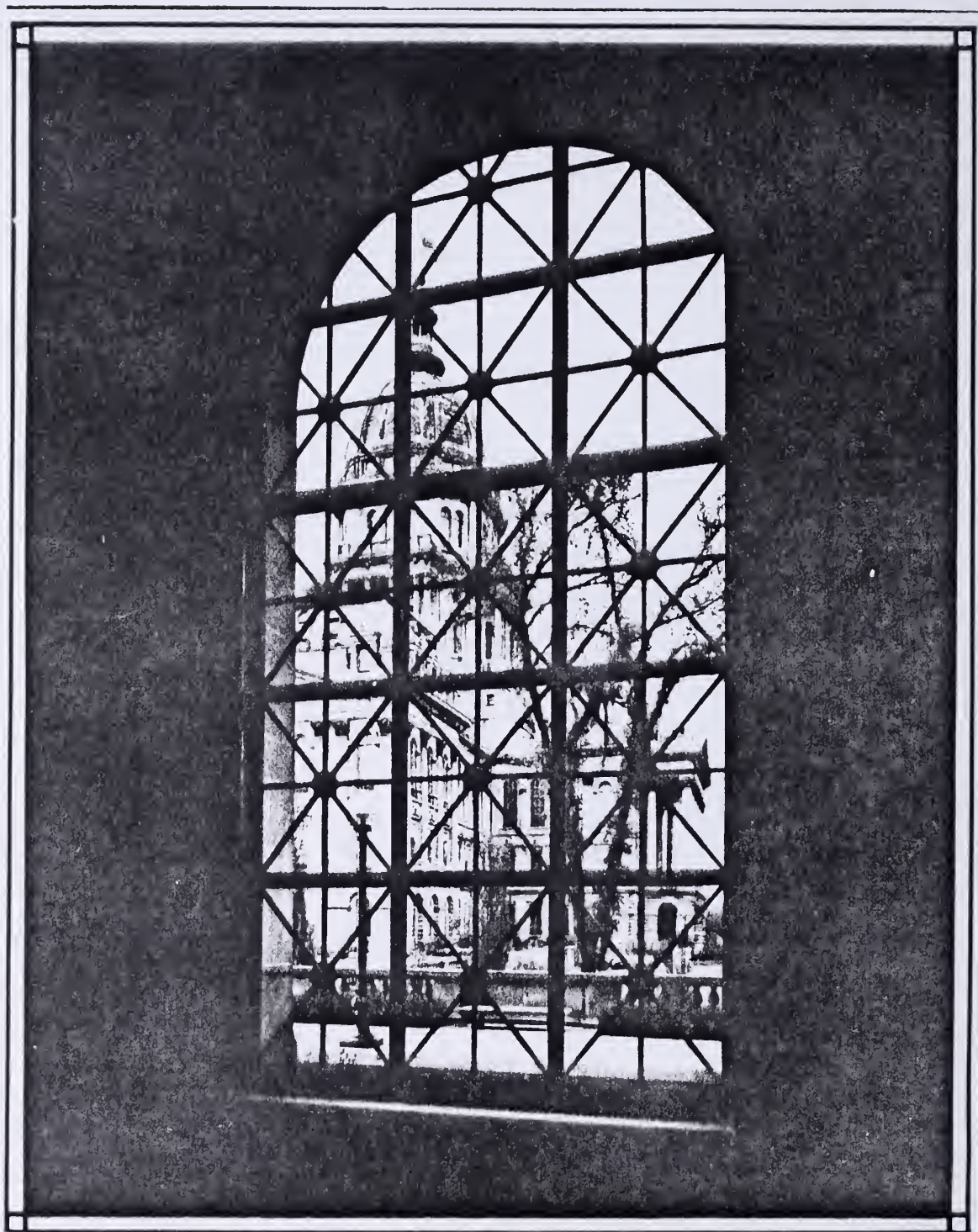
Preamble To Constitution.

Here the great preamble to the constitution of Illinois, written by Judge Samuel Lockwood in 1847, was adopted and rewritten into the constitution of 1870.

History was in the making in a large way in the period during which the business of state was transacted in the state house under description.

Here Stephen A. Douglas was first elected to the United States senate at the age of 34 and twice re-elected. It was in the legislative halls of this building that James Shields, the only man who was ever elected by three states to the United States senate, received his election to the upper branch of congress. Among others who were recipients of this honor in joint session of the legislature here assembled were Sidney Breese, Lyman Trumbull, William A. Richardson, John A. Logan and Richard J. Oglesby.

It will be lawful to train dogs in Michigan between sunset and sunrise during the period Sept. 1 to Oct. 5.



AS MANY TIMES as the State Capitol has been photographed, have you ever seen a more effective and more artistic view than the above photo? (Photo by Herbert Georg.)

Sangamon County Occupies Its Fifth Court House, Once Capitol Building of State

Historic Structure Stands Despite Attempts at Numerous Times to Replace It with More Modern One

Sangamon county during its century of existence has owned five court houses. It built the first in 1821 and has occupied the one at present utilized since 1876.

The present court house, despite expensive alterations, is in many ways deemed insufficient for present day needs and many movements have been started in recent years to have it torn down and a new and modern building erected on its site. Each time the movement for a new building has met with a storm of patriotic protest on the part of citizens who contend that the old building should be retained on account of its historic associations.

On April 10, 1821, John Kelly contracted to build the first court house for the sum of \$12.50 but the records of the county show that before it was completed the building required a total expenditure of \$72.50. The agreement entered into between Kelly and Zachariah Peters and William Drennan, county commissioners read as follows:

"Article of agreement entered into the 10th day of April, 1821, between John Kelly, of the county of Sangamon, and the undersigned county commissioners of said county.

"The said Kelly agrees with said commissioners to build, for the use of said county, a court house of the following description, to-wit: The logs to be twenty feet long, the house one story high, plank floor, a good cabin roof, a door and window cut out, the work to be completed by the first day of May, next, for which the said commissioners promise, on the part of the county, to pay the said Kelly forty-two dollars and fifty cents.

"Witness our hands the day and date above.

"John Kelly,
"Zachariah Peter,
"Wm. Drennan."

On June 1, 1821, the commissioners contracted with Jesse Brevard to have the building "chinked outside and daubed inside," and to have a fireplace and chimney installed and other minor improvements made.

The records then show that on June 5, 1821, John Kelly was allowed \$42.50 due him under his contract and \$5 for extra work, while at a meeting in September Jacob Ellis was allowed \$4.50 for installing a judge's seat and bar, and in December Brevard was awarded \$20.50 for completing the building, bringing the entire cost to \$72.50.

Concerning the building of the subsequent court houses, Power's History of Sangamon County, published in 1876, has the following to say:

Second Court House.

"July terra, 1825. The county commissioners began to think the time had arrived for building a larger and better court house. They passed an order that the county proceed to build a court house, not to exceed three thousand dollars, provided one-half the expense be made up by subscription. It was to be of brick, two stories high. The failure to raise the money defeated the whole project.

"Coming down from their project to build a \$3,000 court house we next find a contract in the office of the county clerk, made September, 1825. Log buildings could no longer be tolerated and this was to be a frame. The contract price was \$449, which did not include the flues. That was let to another party for \$70, making a total of \$519. The old log court house was sold at auction to John Taylor for \$32, nearly half the original cost. The new frame court house was built at the northeast corner of Adams and Sixth streets. It must have been a magnificent structure, judging from the fact that at the term of the court

in June, 1826, Robert Thompson was allowed \$2.25 for the plan of the court house.

"Only a few years elapsed until the frame court house was thought to be inadequate to the growing wants of the people. It is recorded in the county archives that in February, 1830, the county court appointed three agents or commissioners to superintend the erection of a brick court house. On the third of March the commissioners reported to the court that they had entered into contracts with two parties, one for the brick work at \$4,641, the other for the wood work at \$2,200, making a total of \$6,841. The edifice was completed early in 1831 and stood in the center of the public square, bounded by Washington and Adams, Fifth and Sixth streets. It was a square, building, two stories high, hip roof, with a cupola rising in the center. From the time that court house was erected, all the business of the town collected around the square.

"In 1837, when Springfield was selected as the future capital of the state, with a pledge to raise \$50,000 to assist in building the state house, also to furnish the site upon which it should stand, it was not an easy matter to agree upon a location. If land was selected far enough from the existing business to be cheap, the \$50,000 could not be raised. Those already in business around the square refused to contribute, because the state house, being so much larger and more attractive, would draw the business after it, thus depreciating the value of their property. After discussing the question in all its bearings, it was found that the only practical way to settle the matter was to demolish the court house and use the site for the state house. Under the arrangement the business men around the square

pledged themselves to contribute the \$50,000 fund to the extent of their ability. The court house was accordingly removed, early in 1837, and work on the state house commenced. This square, with the court house and other buildings on it, were valued at \$16,000, about one-third of which was lost in the destruction of the buildings.

County Without Court House.

"Having thus summarily disposed of their court house, and having engaged to do so much towards building the state house, the people of Sangamon county were unable to undertake the building of another. In order to supply the deficiency, the county authorities rented a building that had been erected for a store house by the Hon. Ninian W. Edwards. It is at the west side of Fifth street, five doors north of Washington, and was used as a court house for about ten years. Mr. Edwards still (1876) owns it, and it is yet used as a business house. After the state house was built, the \$50,000 paid, and the county emerged from the general wreck caused by the financial crash of 1837-8 Sangamon county began to take measures for erecting another court house. In February, 1845, a lot of ground was purchased at the southeast corner of Washington and Sixth streets, as the site for the building. On the 22nd of April a contract was made by the county commissioners for the building, according to plans and specifications previously adopted. The edifice was to cost \$9,680 to be paid in county orders. It was completed according to contract and was used as the court house of Sangamon county nearly 31 years, until January 1876.

"When the movement for building a new state house was made, early in 1867, it was deemed politic on the part of the friends of Springfield, that Sangamon county should purchase the old state house, erected from 1837-1840 and make it the court house of the county. The law providing for the building of a new state house, which was approved by Gov. R. G. Oglesby, February 25, 1867, with a supplementary act two days later, contained a clause for the transfer of the state house to Sangamon county and the city of Springfield, which was afterwards changed making the county alone the purchaser. It was stipulated that the Governor should convey the public square containing two and one-half acres of land, with the state house upon it, to Sangamon county, in consideration of \$200,000, to be paid to the state of Illinois, and for the further consideration that the city of Springfield and the county, cause to be conveyed to the state a certain piece of land, described by meter and bounds in the bill, and containing between eight and nine acres, upon which to erect the new state house. The law also provided that state should have the use of the old state house until the new one was completed. The land was secured at a cost to the city of \$70,000 and conveyed to the state; the \$200,000 was paid by the county, and the property conveyed by the state to the county. That was done in 1867, but the county did not come into possession of the property for seven years. During that time the simple interest, at ten per cent, on the \$200,000 purchase money, would have amounted to \$140,000, making the cost of the old state

house to Sangamon county \$340,000. The state vacated the house in January, 1876, and the county authorities at once took possession. It will thus be seen that in fifty-five years the county has had five court houses, and been ten years without any. The first one cost \$42.50 and the last \$340,000."

Remodeling of Present Building.

The History of Sangamon County by Joseph Wallace, published in 1904, has a good account of the remodeling of the present court house and a description of the building as it now is. It says:

"The old state house being spacious and commodious, served very well as a court house, and for a number of years was amply sufficient for the requirements of the county. But in the meantime the county was rapidly growing in wealth and population, and the business transacted at the court house steadily increased, until it became apparent that more room must be provided. No move was made in this direction, however, until the June meeting of the board of supervisors in 1897, when Dr. A. L. Converse introduced a resolution setting forth the need of additional room, the danger to the county records from fire, etc., and asking for the appointment of a committee to investigate and report on the matter. The committee was appointed and made report to the board at the meeting in December following. They advised that nothing should be done until the finances of the county would justify giving the building a thorough overhauling. The financial condition of the county at this time lent little encouragement to the project. The constitutional levy of seventy-five cents on the dollar valuation scarcely furnished sufficient revenue to defray the current expenses. The railroad bonds, issued years before on account of the Springfield and Illinois Southeastern and the Gilman, Clinton, and Springfield railroads, had not all been paid, and the permanent location of the state fair at Springfield had cost the county about \$75,000, none of which had as yet been met.

"The necessity of making considerable changes in the court house, however, was now fully apparent, although public sentiment was slow in determining what these should be. One proposition was presented in the board of supervisors to sell off three-fourths of the public square and build a new court house on the remaining fourth with the money thus obtained.

"The old building had become historic and was haunted by the shadows of great names. Under its dome many stirring scenes had been enacted. Its halls had resounded with the eloquence of Lincoln, Douglas, Baker, Logan, Stuart, Edwards, McClernand, Palmer, Robinson, Breese, Browning, Trumbull, Shields, Yates and many other great men of the city and state at large. Its hall of representatives had been made, in a measure, sacred by having held "in state" the remains of President Lincoln. So full indeed, was the time honored structure, with mem-

ories of the past that the sentiment was general that the old building should not be demolished, and that its exterior appearance should remain unchanged.

"On September 15, 1898, the late Thomas C. Mather offered a resolution in the county board looking to the renovation of the old building. The matter was referred to an appropriate committee, which, at a special meeting, early in October, reported that they had examined the building and found it inadequate and unsafe; that it was inexpedient and inadvisable to sell any of the ground, and advised that steps at once be taken to remodel and fire-proof the structure. On receiving this report the board of supervisors decided to submit the question of levying a tax of \$100,000 to remodel and furnish the court house, to the voters of the county at the election in the ensuing November. At this election majority of the votes cast on the question were in favor of the additional tax, and the next step was to advertise for plans and specifications. Several plans were submitted by different architects, and that of S. J. Hanes was eventually adopted. He also suggested the feasibility of raising the building and putting a story under it, but this part of the plan was not adopted until later. Mr. Hanes and S. A. Bullard were employed to superintend the work jointly, and the first contract was let on March 29, 1899, to Warren, Roberts & Co., of Chicago, for \$49,850.

Temporary Offices Taken.

"About the 5th of April a majority of the county officers moved their offices and records to temporary quarters in the Odd Fellows' building (now DeWitt Smith building), at the southeast corner of Fourth and Monroe streets. The other officers found accommodations in adjacent buildings.

"After the contract had been let and the court house dismantled the idea gained favor in the board of supervisors that the building could be raised and its appearance thereby preserved and improved, and on the 15th day of May, Mr. Mather secured the passage of a resolution to that effect. On the 14th of June a second contract was made with the same Chicago firm, by which the entire exterior of the building was to be raised eleven feet and a complete store of Bedford sandstone built underneath it for \$27,500. This great feat of engineering skill was successfully accomplished to the satisfaction of the board and the general public. After this a third contract was let to the same firm for a new roof and dome for \$12,000. This completed the improvements, so far as the building was concerned, and next came the furnishings. For these two separate contracts were let, one to George D. Banard & Co., of St. Louis, for the steel furniture, consisting of fire-proof file cases, book shelves, counters, etc., for the sum of \$20,971, and one to the Wollaefer Manufacturing Co., of Milwaukee, for the wooden furniture, consisting of tables, desks, chairs and other articles, for \$11,750, to which extras were afterwards added, making the sum \$12,471.

"The total cost of remodeling and furnishing the court house was estimated at \$153,125, but this was before all of the work was completed. If to the above be added \$16,994 paid by the county for rent, moving and other incidental expenses, it would make the entire cost of the improvement amount, in round numbers, to about \$175,000.

"As it is seen today, the building is a model of strength, convenience and beauty. It is in the form of a rectangle, and is of the Grecian-Loric style of architecture. It is 123 feet long, 90 feet wide, and to the top of the flag staff 154 feet in height. From the ground to the cornice line is 57 feet. The porticos on the north and south project 11½ feet. There are three full floors for offices, and an upper story, in which the G. A. R. hall, the dormitory, the gallery of the Circuit court and storage rooms are located."

COURT HOUSE THE SIXTH IN COUNTY'S LIFE

At the close of the hundred years of Illinois history as a State, Sangamon County has a record of six court houses. These structures varying greatly in size and material. The first court house that Sangamon County possessed was planned by Rivers Cormack, Zachariah Peters and William Brennan, the first commissioners of the county. The men were elected on April 3, 1821. At a meeting held on the 10th day of April, 1821, at the home of John Kelly, one of the first settlers on what is now the present site of the city of Springfield, Sangamon County's first court house was arranged for.

The commissioners agreed that the court house be built upon the southeast corner of John Kelly's land, this place is considered to be what is now Second and Jefferson streets. The contract for the building of the court house was given to John Kelly for the sum of \$42.50. The building was to be built of logs, twenty feet long. The building was to be completed by May of 1822. With the coming of winter, the commissioners bethought themselves of making some necessary repairs. Accordingly, they entered into a contract with Jesse Brevard to make the needed additions. Brevard was to chink and daub the inside and outside of the court house, place shutters on the windows, install nine lights and build a chimney. The commissioners were to pay Brevard for this \$20.50, with \$9.99 for numerous other items such as the placing of the judges' seat and bar, making the total cost of the first court house \$72.50.

Second Court House.

On September 7, 1825, the first court house of Sangamon County, which John Kelly had built, was sold to John Taylor for the sum of \$32.00, and a contract was let to Thomas M. Neale to build a frame court house for the sum of \$449.00, except the building of the chimney, which was let to Joseph Thomas for the sum of \$70.00. The sum allowed Robert Thompson for the plan of the court house was \$2.50. John Taylor and Charles Matheny were appointed on July 15, 1826, to receive the plans for the court house. Charles White was employed to plaster the building at 37½ cents a yard. This building was the second court house that Sangamon County had and was located on the northeast corner of Sixth and Adams streets.

A new brick court house was ordered built on or about the middle of the public square, as now laid out in the town of Springfield, on January 4, 1830. The commissioners appointed as the county's agents to contract for the building and to act as superintendents for the same, were John Todd, Asa S. Shaw and Garret Elkin.

The contract for the building of the new court house was let by the committee on March 2, 1830.

Two Story Brick Affair.

The court house was a two story, square brick building, with a hip roof, and a cupola, and stood in the middle of the public square. The building was completed in the year 1831, at a cost of \$6,841.

The building of the court house had a great effect on the business district of Springfield. Immediately after the

building was completed the business began to center around it, and the old town on Jefferson street began to decay.

Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas tried many cases in the courts of this building. Here, also, sat as judge, Stephen T. Logan, the greatest lawyer that Illinois has ever produced.

During the year that the third court house was completed the county sold the second court house and the lot upon which it stood to John B. Moffett for the sum of \$626.

On March 10, 1831, the commissioners improved the appearance of the court house by ordering that thirty feet of the north end of the public square be appropriated for a walk, provided a brick market house be built in the street not over 40 feet long. This market house stood in the middle of Sixth street, a little north of Washington, the street having been widened for a driveway on either side.

At this time in the county's history the State legislature was waging a great fight for the placing of the State Capital. Springfield, one of the contestants for the State Capital, was victorious, due to the efforts of Abraham Lincoln and his colleagues, known in history as the "Long Nine."

The State legislature, in an addition to the act permanently locating the seat of government at Springfield, empowered the county commissioners of Sangamon County to convey to the Governor of the State that property in the town of Springfield known as the "Public Square," which contained two and a half acres. The commissioners made a deed of the property to Governor Joseph Duncan.

At this time the commissioners also entered into a contract with Leroy L. Hill by which they obtained the right to take from the stone quarry owned by Hill on Sugar Creek any amount of stone they might desire from the first of December, 1837, to the first of January, 1841, at the sum of \$1 a load. The peculiar rock to be seen in the present building came from this quarry.

Leased Building.

The old brick court house standing in the middle of the square was demolished immediately after the conveyance of the public square to the State to make place for the State Capitol, which was erected on the grounds.

The county, after the conveyance to the State of the public square, leased the buildings on the west side of Fifth street, just north of Washington street, which was known as the "Hoffman Row."

The county seat was situated here until 1845, when a lot on the southeast corner of Sixth and Washington streets, fronting 78½ feet on Sixth and 160 feet on Washington streets, was purchased by the county on the 14th day of May, 1845. Here the county erected another brick court house, with stone portico and trimmings. According to the contract, this structure cost the county the sum of \$9,680.

The county used this building as a court house from 1845 to January, 1876, when the State vacated the public square and moved to the present location at Second street and Capitol avenue. The State reconveyed the public square to the county by deed on October 23, 1869, having been conveyed to the county nearly seven years previous to the State moving their offices to the present site of location.

The county moved into the present building in 1871, and the court house on the south-east corner of Sixth and Washington street, was torn away, and the property was sold into business lots in 1877.

The county found the old State Capitol large and spacious when it first moved in, but as the county was growing fast, the building began to become less spacious and finally crowded, until finally in June 1897, a resolution was introduced in the board of Supervisors by Dr. A. L. Converse, showing the need of additional room being made to

the court house and asking that a committee be appointed to investigate, which was done.

Many Suggestions.

But the committee did not return a favorable report to the supervisors. During the following two years the county had many suggestions and plans advanced for the solving of the problem.

But the demand for the needed repairs was general throughout the city. The business men operating on the public square petitioned the county supervisors to replace the old soft gravel walks around the square with more up-to-date walks. But the supervisors mostly from the rural districts and used to mud, cast aside the petition, stating that the county needed its money for other improvements.

Some suggestions were advanced to sell part of the ground occupied by the court house and use the proceeds in building a new court house, but this plan failed.

The matter was left to a committee which on October 4, 1898, reported that the building was unsafe and dangerous, and also recommended that necessary repairs be made. The report was accepted and the board decided to hold an election and submit to the voters the proposition of levying a tax of \$100,000 to remodel the court house. The election was held in November of that year, and the majority of the votes cast at the election were for the additional tax for the improvement of the court house. The only thing now to be dealt with was the plans for the remodeling of the building.

Three Plans.

Finally a committee was appointed, the first committee on remodeling the court house. The committee submitted three plans for the solving of the problem, but the plan of S. J. Hanes, often suggested, to raise the building, was defeated. The committee was composed of the following men: E. L. Stockdale, of Talkington; J. H. Maxey, of Island Grove; J. H. Crowder, of Cotton Hill; Thomas C. Mather and H. H. Biggs, of Capitol township. S. J. Hanes and S. A. Bullard were employed to superintend the work.

The contract for the building was let on March 29, 1899, to Warren Roberts and Company, of Chicago, the plan for building having been submitted by S. J. Hanes, but not his plan for the raising of the building.

The county officers moved to their temporary offices in the I. O. O. F. building on Fourth and Monroe streets, on April 5, 1899.

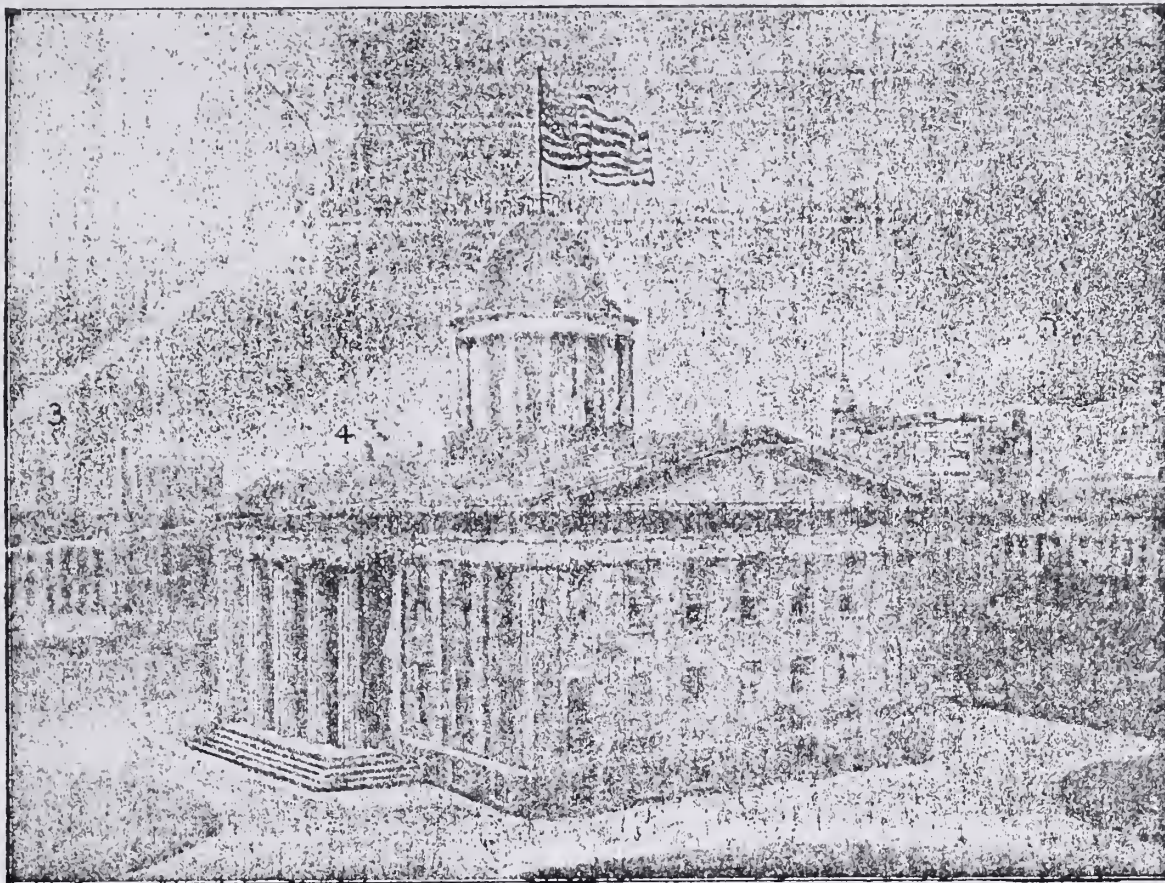
After the contract for the remodeling of the court house had been let and the building dismantled, many citizens began to entertain the thought that the new additions would not afford ample room. So on May 15, 1899, Mr. Mather secured the adoption of a resolution fa-

voring the plan to raise the old building and build an entirely new floor under it. On June 14, a second contract was entered into by the county, and the same firm, by which they were to raise the old court house and build a new floor thereunder, for an additional \$27,500. This was the greatest feat of engineering undertaken in this county. After several weeks the jacks and blocks to raise the building were placed, the entire building was raised the height of 11 feet in about twelve days. This improvement being completed, it was decided that the dome of the building must also be furnished with a new roof and dome. This was arranged for by a contract with the same firm for the sum of \$12,000. This completed the improvements to be made upon the building. But the county had now to furnish the remodelled court house with the necessary furniture. Contracts were made with George D. Barnard and Company, of St. Louis, for steel furniture, consisting mainly of fire-proof files and bookcases, for which the county paid the sum of \$20,517, and

also a further contract with Wollaeger Mfg. Co. for desks, chairs and many like articles for the sum of \$11,750.

Since that time not many improvements have been necessary. The most recent improvements of importance are the re-roofing of the building last December, and the decorating of the Circuit court room for the Illinois Centennial, which is to be held this year.

Sangamon County Court House Before Being Remodeled



The present court house as shown in this cut, was originally the old state house, and was used for sessions of the legislature from late in the 30's until 1876, when the state departments were removed to the present capitol building. In 1899 the structure was raised eleven feet and a new first story built beneath the historic building.



STATE MAY BUY IT.

Latest Movement Regarding the County Court House Change.

A movement has been started to secure the purchase by the state of the Sangamon county court house, which was formerly the state house. At the fall election the people of the county voted an appropriation of \$100,000 for alterations and repairs upon the old building. This would mean a material change in its appearance. The feeling is quite general that the building ought to be preserved as it is, owing to its historical associations.

The building's existence is due largely to the efforts of Abraham Lincoln, the master spirit of the "Long Nine" in the legislature of 1837, who secured the removal of the state capital from Vandalia to Springfield. Edward D. Baker, afterwards senator from Oregon, was the orator at the laying of the cornerstone in the same year. Lincoln lingered in the legislature long enough to occupy a seat in the building at the session of 1841. Its walls echoed his voice on a hundred occasions. In it he accepted the nomination for United States senator in 1858 and made the historic "house-divided" speech. He made his headquarters in the governor's room during the presidential campaign of 1860.

The legislature, assembled in the old state house, three times elected Stephen A. Douglas to the United States senate, and in the old representatives' hall Douglas made, in April, 1861, the last great speech of his life. Many other names more or less famous are intimately associated with the ancient structure. It is probable that the state will be asked to buy the building and provide for its preservation.

The suggestion has been made that the building could be appropriately used to shelter a great historical collection which in time could be gotten together. The movement will no doubt be strengthened by the fact that the present state house is overcrowded. It is contended by some that the old building would make an admirable home for the state historical library. No definite steps have yet been taken in the matter, but it is probable that a bill on the subject will be presented to the legislature.

THE FIVE SANGAMON COUNTY COURT HOUSES; LISTS OF EARLY OFFICIALS

By HERBERT WELLS FAY, *Custodian Lincoln's Tomb*

Students of Lincoln are constantly called upon to identify legal papers figured by Sangamon county officials and sometimes they are illegible, then it is necessary to find from the records who held the position at the time.

Then the question is asked where was the Sangamon county court house in Lincoln's time. For ready reference we give some of the records covering these points.

THE FIRST COURT HOUSE.

On April 3rd, 1821, the county commissioners of Sangamon county, met for the purpose of selecting a seat of justice. They contracted with John Kelley, to build a log house twenty feet long and one story high, and the whole cost was \$72.50. It was near what is now the northwest corner of Second and Jefferson Streets. Diagonal across from Baker Lumber Co.

THE SECOND COURT HOUSE.

In September, 1825, a contract was let for the erection of a frame building at a cost of \$519. It was built on the northwest corner of Adams and Sixth Streets.

THE THIRD COURT HOUSE.

In 1830 the county commissioners were empowered to erect a brick structure on the public square, which cost the county \$6,841. It was completed early in 1831, was a square structure two stories high with hip roof and surmounted with a cupola.

THE FOURTH COURT HOUSE.

When the state capitol was located in Springfield, 1837, the public square was chosen for the site of the capitol building and the brick court house was torn down and the county authorities rented a building on the west side of Fifth Street, five doors north of Washington Street. This was used for the county court house for ten years. In 1845 a new building at a cost of \$9,684 was built, which was used until the state house was purchased. The Strand Theatre now occupies the corner and the county and the Marine Bank had the north half of that block.

THE FIFTH COURT HOUSE.

In 1876 the present state house was occupied, but still unfurnished and the old state house was purchased by Sangamon county for \$200,000. It was subsequently raised one story.

EARLY SANGAMON COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Clerk

Charles R. Matheny	1821
Noah W. Matheny	1839
John J. Hardin	1873
Louis H. Ticknor	1877

Circuit Clerk

Charles R. Matheny	1821
William Butler	1836
James H. Matheny	1840
John C. Calhoun	1842
Benjamin Talbott	1848
James H. Matheny	1852
Presco Wright	1856
Stephen S. Whitehurst	1860
Charles H. Lanphier	1864
James A. Winston	1872
Edward R. Roberts	1880

Recorder

Charles R. Matheny	1821
Edward Mitchell	1827
Benjamin Talbott	1835
(Merged with circuit clerk 1835)	

Probate Judge

James Latham	1821
Zachariah Peter	1821
Charles R. Matheny	1822
James Adams	1825
Thomas Moffett	1843

County Judge

Thomas Moffett	1849
J. Wick Taylor	1853
Wm. D. Power	1857
Norman M. Broodwell	1863
Vice Power, deceased.	
William Prescott	1865
A. N. J. Crook	1869
James H. Matheny	1873

Prosecuting Attorney

Samuel D. Lockwood	1821
James Turney	1823
George Forquer	1829
John J. Hardin	1833
Stephen A. Douglas	1835
David Prickett	1837
David Woodson	1838
David B. Campbell	1839
A. McWilliams	1855
Ward H. Lamson	1856
James B. White	1857
Cincinnatus M. Morrison	1864
Lloyd F. Hamilton	1872
Robert H. Hazlett	1876

(Hazlett tried the thieves who attempted to steal Mr. Lincoln's body).

Bill to Save Lincoln Site Puts Kerner on the Spot

BY CHARLES NICODEMUS

Of Our Springfield Bureau

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — With historic fanfare the Illinois General Assembly met this week for a commemorative session in the aging Sangamon County Courthouse, the state Capitol in Lincoln's day.

Gov. Otto Kerner was among those who offered a few unmemorable words marking the occasion: the 100th anniversary of a speech there by Abe Lincoln's rival, Stephen A. Douglas, urging Democrats to unite behind Lincoln and the Union in the then-young Civil War.

What Kerner didn't offer—but what most people came hoping to hear—was some hint as to whether he'd sign the bill passed by the Legislature authorizing the state to buy the revered building from Sangamon County for \$1,015,000.

Backers of the bill propose that the structure, built in 1837, be converted into a Lincoln shrine and historical library. The purchase also would give the county money to erect a badly needed new courthouse elsewhere.

KERNER could not have asked for a more perfect occasion on which to announce the state's plans.

His failure even to mention the controversial bill strengthened the conviction of many legislators that he intends to veto it.

If this happens, the members of the Sangamon County Board—in a neat piece of blackmail—have announced they will tear the building down and either:

—Blacktop the land for a parking lot.

—Sell the property to raise money for the new courthouse.

—Build the new one on the site of the old.



The aging Sangamon County Courthouse as it looked in Abe Lincoln's time. It was the scene of historic speeches by Lincoln (left inset) and Stephen A. Douglas (right inset).



SOME * CRITICS * suggest that this is a less-than-graceful approach to the money problem, particularly on the part of public officials from a county that earns part of its bread and butter by commercializing Lincoln's memory.

Others observe that blacktopping seems a somewhat inappropriate fate for a site described by scholars as the nation's most historic building west of the Alleghenies.

It is one in which Lincoln sat as a legislator, argued Circuit Court cases as a rising attorney, made his temporary office after his election to the presidency, delivered his famed "house divided" speech—and finally returned to, to

lie in state, after the tragedy in Ford's Theater.

* * *

SO FAR the best comment Kerner has made on the matter came Thursday when he said that he's all for history and buying the courthouse but will sign the bill only if he believes the state's hard pressed treasury can stand it. He will make the decision in mid-June. However, he has not included the expenditure in his budget.

What disturbs history buffs and sympathetic legislators most are rumors that the impending veto action will be part of a package deal. To placate the locals, Kerner supposedly will approve two other "Springfield bills."

One calls for \$300,000 to construct three more horse barns at the state fair grounds.

The other appropriates \$500,000 for construction of what critics call an "ice palace"—an area that would house an ice show during the 10-day-long State Fair and purportedly be useable as a convention hall and sports arena for Springfield the rest of the year.

*** * ***
THAT TWO such bills have been so favorably received by the General Assembly is indicative of just how economy-minded a majority of the legislators really are.

That the governor might consider balancing these bills off against the Sangamon County Courthouse seems in-

credible until the pressures on Kerner are fully understood.

The horse barn and ice palace bills are backed by the Legislature's powerful fair grounds faction, which includes Rep. Clyde Lee (D-Mount Vernon), a member of the State Fair Board, and House Speaker Paul Powell (D-Vienna).

It has been made clear to Kerner that vetoing the fair grounds bills would make Lee, Powell—whose support is vital for Kerner's legislative program—and other valuable political allies unhappy.

Photo Shows Court House Jacked-up for New Story



The photo above makes an interesting study if the raising of the old court house carried out in 1889 and 1900. The two story building was jacked up on timber and a new story constructed underneath at a cost of approximately \$175,000. Considerable agitation is now current for the restoration of the building to its original form and its use as a Lincoln museum.

Dr. George Zellar of Peoria was an afternoon guest. He has always been fired with the inspiration of Lincoln's life. In these days, when the people want to return in a way the honor that the world-famed man has given our state, suggestions are welcome. Every idea should, of course, be offered and carefully considered. It is quite possible that not any one plan will cover the field and satisfy all. Springfield has his home, his tomb and they, with his birthplace, manifestly make the three major items. No memorials—man built, granite pile, sculpture, canvas or historical—can outclass these in human interest. Springfield has the home and the tomb, but they seem but to hold the attention for a moment. The tourists who come so far always want more. They find hours of enjoyment in historical research or study. They want answers to their inquiries. Logan Hay and former Governor Frank O. Lowden head a group who want the old state house that once echoed Lincoln's words to echo forever his deeds. No matter what other dreams are in the air, this in time should be done. Doctor Zellar hints that Springfield, with two of the major attractions, should be content until New Salem has been restored and equipped and reflects all the historic inspiration possible. Whatever Doctor Zellar might hope for New Salem should be accomplished in the near future.

All these suggestions are hourly discussed by the millions of tomb tourists. Inspired by being in touch with his last resting place, the people say almost with one voice that the middle west should do more, at least during the next generation. Guests by the hundreds of thousands say that the people will not be satisfied until a downtown memorial is built that will not be outshadowed by the \$1,000,000 memorial of Indiana or the \$3,000,000 shrine at Washington. Secure ground adjacent to the Springfield home and erect a building as grand as money can buy. If this is done, men of means will put up large sums that would not donate a dollar to a second-rate shrine. The state house must be saved. New Salem improved, but Lincoln friends want something better as well.

Everybody is suggesting something for the proposed memorial to Lincoln. Some of the plans are practical and some probably impossible. The question of funds is the stumbling block. One enthusiast suggests that each colored citizen of the country contribute one dollar and with the fund buy the blocks adjacent to the Lincoln homestead as a site for the memorial. As there are five million colored people and if one in five would send his dollar a lot of land could be secured. This would certainly be a splendid way to show appreciation.

Another guest suggests that on Emancipation day invite each local colored person to visit the tomb and register, and thereby help to increase the registration of 1929 to the normal quota.





House of Reps.

